

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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Augusta, Maine
2013

facilities or systems, including natural streams and rivers and other water bodies used wholly or partly to convey or control storm water or floodwater.

1. Interest. The municipal officers may charge interest on delinquent accounts at a rate not to exceed the highest lawful rate set by the Treasurer of State for municipal taxes.

2. Lien. There shall be is a lien on real estate served or benefited by a municipal sewer or sewer system or storm water disposal system to secure the payment of service charges and interest on delinquent accounts established under this chapter. This lien takes precedence over all other claims on the real estate, excepting only claims for taxes.

3. Collection. The treasurer of the municipality may collect the service charges and interest on delinquent accounts in the same manner as granted by Title 38, section 1208, to treasurers of sanitary sewer districts with reference to rates established and due under Title 38, section 1202.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §3406-A, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 306, §1, is amended to read:

§3406-A. Landlord access to tenant bill payment information

If a tenant is billed for municipal sewer or storm water disposal system service provided to property rented by the tenant and nonpayment for the service may result in a lien against the property, the municipality shall provide to the landlord or the landlord's agent, on request of the landlord or the landlord's agent, the current status of the tenant's sewer or storm water disposal system service account, including any amounts due or overdue. For purposes of this section, "storm water disposal system" has the same meaning as in section 3406.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 198

S.P. 475 - L.D. 1356

An Act To Improve the Statutes Governing Road Associations

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §3101, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 625, §1, is amended to read:

B. "Repairs and maintenance" does not include paving, except in locations where limited paving is demonstrated to be a cost-effective approach for fixing an erosion problem or to repair and maintain pavement existing as of July 1, 2007. "Main-

tenance" includes, but is not limited to, snow-plowing, snow removal, sanding and ice control; grading and adding gravel and surface material; installing, cleaning and replacing culverts; creating and maintaining ditches, drains and other storm water management infrastructure; creating and maintaining sight distances on curves and at intersections; and cutting brush, trees and vegetation in the right-of-way.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §3101, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2009, c. 239, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Call of meeting. When 4 or more parcels of land are benefited by a private road, private way or bridge as an easement or by fee ownership of the private road, private way or bridge, the owners of any 3 or more of the parcels, as long as at least 3 of the parcels are owned by different persons, may make written application to a notary public to call a meeting. The notary may issue a warrant or similar written notice setting forth the time, place and purpose of the meeting. Copies of the warrant or similar written notice must be mailed by means of the United States Postal Service to the owners of all the parcels benefited by the private road, private way or bridge at the addresses set forth in the municipal tax records at least 30 days before the date of the meeting. The notice must inform the owners of the planned meeting's agenda and specify all items to be voted on, including, but not limited to, all proposed budget items or amendments that will determine the amount of money to be paid by each owner pursuant to subsection 5. Subsequent meetings may be called in the same manner or by a commissioner or board appointed at a previous meeting pursuant to subsection 5.

Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §3101, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 625, §1, is amended to read:

4. Voting. Each parcel of land benefited by a private road, private way or bridge represents one vote under this section; except that, if the bylaws of the association authorize more than one vote, then each parcel may represent no more than 2 votes under this subsection. The call to a meeting may state that an owner may elect in writing to appoint another owner to vote in the owner's stead. Owners voting by absentee ballot must be polled on all voting items that were not included in the agenda and the final tally must be reported to the owners.

Sec. 4. 23 MRSA §3101, sub-§4-A, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 239, §2, is amended to read:

4-A. Road associations. A road association under this subchapter through its commissioner or board may address present and future repair and maintenance of a private road, private way or bridge as authorized by the owners at meetings called and conducted pursuant to this section until the association is dissolved by a majority vote of its members.

Sec. 5. 23 MRSA §3101, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 625, §1, is amended to read:

5. Commissioner or board; assessment for repair, maintenance and other costs. The owners of parcels of land benefited by a private road, private way or bridge at a meeting called pursuant to subsection 2 may choose a commissioner or board, to be sworn. By a majority vote of the owners present and voting in person or by written proxy or absentee ballot, the owners may determine what repairs and maintenance are necessary and the materials to be furnished or amount of money to be paid by each owner for repairs and maintenance and may determine the amount of money to be paid by each owner for other costs, including, but not limited to, the cost of liability insurance for the officers, directors and owners and costs of administration. The determination of each owner's share of the total cost must be fair and equitable and based upon a formula provided for in the road association's bylaws or adopted by the owners at a meeting called and conducted pursuant to this section. The commissioner or board shall report the outcome of all votes to all the owners by United States mail within 30 days. Special assessments for emergency repairs and maintenance may be made at a duly held meeting called for that purpose. Emergency repairs and maintenance are those actions necessary to maintain or restore the functionality of the private road, private way or bridge.

Sec. 6. 23 MRSA §3101, sub-§5-A, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 239, §3, is amended to read:

5-A. Easements. A road association under this ~~section~~ subchapter may negotiate an easement for the installation of a ditch, drain, culvert or other storm water management infrastructure to benefit the private road, private way or bridge. The easement must specify when a ditch, drain, culvert or other storm water management infrastructure must be maintained and include reasonable performance standards to guide the timing and extent of its upkeep and repair. The easement must also be recorded at the registry of deeds in the county in which the property subject to the easement is located. A ditch, drain, culvert or other storm water management infrastructure subject to an easement under this subsection must be under the control of and maintained by the road association.

Sec. 7. 23 MRSA §3101, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Insurance. A road association under this subchapter may purchase liability insurance to defend and indemnify the road association's officers, directors and owner members for any and all claims of liability or violation of law concerning the private road, private way or bridge and may include the costs of such insurance in the determination of each owner's share of the total cost under subsection 5.

Sec. 8. 23 MRSA §3102, as amended by PL 2007, c. 625, §2, is further amended to read:

§3102. Commissioner's or board's duties; neglect of owners to pay

The commissioner or board chosen under section 3101, with respect to the private road, private way or bridge, has the powers of a road commissioner. If any owner, on requirement of the commissioner or board, neglects to furnish that owner's proportion of labor, materials or money, the same may be furnished by the other owners and recovered of the owner neglecting to pay in a civil action, together with costs of suit and reasonable attorney's fees. Such civil action may be brought in the name of and by the road association created pursuant to this subchapter and the decision to bring that civil action may be made by the commissioner or board or as otherwise provided for in the road association's bylaws. The commissioner's or board's apportioning of the cost of repairs to the road undertaken pursuant to the provisions of section 3101 may not exceed 1% of an individual owner's municipal property valuation in any calendar year.

Sec. 9. 23 MRSA §3103, as amended by PL 2007, c. 625, §3, is further amended to read:

§3103. Contracts for repair

The owners, at a meeting held under section 3101, may by a majority vote of the owners present and voting in person or by written proxy or absentee ballot authorize a contract to be made for making repairs to and maintaining the private road, private way or bridge by the year or for a lesser time and may raise money for that purpose pursuant to section 3101, subsection 5. ~~The commissioner or board shall collect the money as town taxes are collected and is liable for neglect of duty as town collectors are for similar neglects.~~

Sec. 10. 23 MRSA §3104, as amended by PL 2007, c. 625, §4, is further amended to read:

§3104. Penalties and process

Money recovered under sections 3102 and 3103 is for the use of the owners. In any notice of claim or process for ~~its~~ the money's recovery, a description of the owners in general terms as owners of parcels of land benefited by the private road, private way or bridge, clearly describing each owner's parcel of land by the book and page number of the owner's deed as recorded in the county's registry of deeds and the private road, private way or bridge, is sufficient. If the private road, private way or bridge is shown on a plan recorded in the county's registry of deeds, the plan's recording reference is sufficient. Such process is not abated by the death of any owner or by the transfer of any owner's interest. Any money owed pursuant to section 3101, 3102 or 3103 is an obligation that is personal to the owners of the subject parcels, jointly or

severally, and also burdens the parcel and runs with the land upon the transfer of any owner's interest. The commissioner or board may cause to be recorded in the county's registry of deeds a notice of claim for money owed pursuant to section 3101, 3102 or 3103 that is more than 90 days delinquent and may add to the amount owed the recording costs. The recording of such notice does not constitute slander of title. Before recording such notice or service of process of a complaint for collection in a civil action, the commissioner or board shall give the owner against whom such action is to be taken written notice, in the same manner as written notices of meetings are provided for in section 3101, of the intended action if the debt is not paid within 20 days of the date of the written notice. This written notice to cure must be sent at least 30 days before the recording of the notice of claim or the service of process of the complaint for collection in a civil action.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 199

H.P. 608 - L.D. 857

An Act To Examine Fees Charged by Municipalities Concerning Outdoor-related Activities

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13201, first ¶, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §421 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

A municipality or political subdivision of the State may not enact any ordinance, law or rule regulating or charging a fee for the hunting, trapping or fishing for any species of fish or wildlife; the possession or use of any equipment expressly permitted for use in hunting under this Part; the operation, registration or numbering of all-terrain vehicles, watercraft or snowmobiles or any other subject matter relating to all-terrain vehicles, watercraft or snowmobiles regulated under chapter 935 or 937 or under any other provisions of this Part, except that a municipality may regulate the operation of all-terrain vehicles on municipal property and on rights-of-way and easements held by that municipality. For purposes of this section, except as provided in subsection 3, the regulation of fishing includes the regulation of ice fishing shacks. This section does not prohibit:

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §3007, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2003, c. 332, §1, is further amended to read:

5. Firearms and hunting equipment. A municipality shall consult with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife during the process of the consideration of the adoption or amendment of a firearm discharge ordinance. The area in which the discharge of firearms is prohibited by a firearm discharge ordinance must be described in the ordinance using clearly defined physical boundaries as points of reference. For purposes of this subsection, the term "clearly defined physical boundaries" includes but is not limited to roads, waterways and utility corridors. After January 1, 2000, a municipality that adopts or amends a firearm discharge ordinance shall provide the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with a copy of the new or amended firearm discharge ordinance and a copy of any maps that show the areas in the municipality affected by the new or amended ordinance within 30 days from the date that the ordinance is enacted or amended. A municipality may not ~~include bows and arrows in any firearms discharge~~ adopt or enforce any ordinance prohibited under Title 12, section 13201.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 200

H.P. 251 - L.D. 346

An Act Concerning the Collection of Sales Tax by Any Businesses Making Sales to Persons in Maine

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §1754-B, sub-§1, ¶D, as amended by PL 2005, c. 218, §18, is further amended to read:

D. Every person that has a substantial physical presence in this State sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the due process and commerce clauses of the United States Constitution and that makes retail sales in this State of tangible personal property or taxable services on behalf of a principal that is outside of this State if the principal is not the holder of a valid registration certificate; For purposes of this paragraph, paragraph E and paragraph G, the following activities do not constitute a substantial physical presence in this State sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the due process and commerce clauses of the United States Constitution:

- (1) Solicitation of business in this State through catalogs, flyers, telephone or electronic media when delivery of ordered goods is effected by the United States mail or by an interstate 3rd-party common carrier;