

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 5, 2012 to July 10, 2013

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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
2013

ent system administrator for northern Maine unless the commission finds that the level of competitive electricity service and standard-offer service competition in the area administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine or any successor of the independent system administrator for northern Maine is substantially similar to the level of competitive electricity service and standard-offer service competition in the area of the State that is within the New England independent system operator control area. All kilowatt hours sales and electric load in any portion of a distribution utility's service territory that is located in an area administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine or any successor of the independent system administrator for northern Maine must be excluded from the calculation under this paragraph for those portions of the distribution utility's service territory that is not located in an area administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine or any successor of the independent system administrator for northern Maine.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 347

S.P. 597 - L.D. 1560

An Act To Allow Further Review of the Report Defining Cost Responsibility for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Students Receiving Services from the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

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

Sec. 1. PL 2011, c. 683, §11 is amended by amending the last paragraph to read:

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs may submit a bill related to the report presented pursuant to this section to the ~~First~~ Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 348
S.P. 445 - L.D. 1283

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Animal Trespass

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §4041, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2011, c. 18, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4. Fines. A person who violates this section is subject to the following fines.

A. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$500 must be adjudged.

B. A person who violates this section after having been adjudicated as having committed a violation of this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$1,000 must be adjudged.

C. A person who violates this section after having been adjudicated as having committed 2 or more violations of this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$2,500 must be adjudged.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §4041, sub-§§4-A and 4-B are enacted to read:

4-A. Restitution; court costs and fees. In addition to fines, the court may as part of the sentencing include an order of restitution for costs incurred in removing and controlling the animal. When appropriate, the court may order restitution to the property owner based on damage done and financial loss. Any restitution ordered and paid must be deducted from the amount of any judgment awarded in a civil action brought by the property owner against the owner or keeper of the animal based on the same facts. When an owner or keeper violates this section 3 or more times within a 90-day period, the court shall order restitution of all costs incurred by the department in responding to a violation of this section or assisting an animal control officer or law enforcement officer responding to a violation of this section. Upon application of the department, municipality or law enforcement agency enforcing this section, the owner or keeper of the animal must also pay reasonable court costs and attorney's fees of the department, municipality or law enforcement agency if the department, municipality or law enforcement agency is the prevailing party in any court proceeding.

4-B. Forfeiture. If the department, a municipality or a law enforcement agency determines that a repeated violation of this section by an owner or keeper of an animal jeopardizes the public health, welfare or

safety of the community, the department, municipality or law enforcement agency may bring a forfeiture action in the county in which the violations occurred under Title 14, section 506. In an action brought under this subsection, the burden of proof is on the department, municipality or law enforcement agency. If a court determines that a repeated violation of this section jeopardizes the public health, welfare or safety of the community, the court may order any animal that is the subject of the violation sold in a commercially reasonable manner and apply the proceeds to any fine, fee, restitution or cost owed by the owner or keeper under this section with any remaining balance returned to the owner or keeper of the animal.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 349

H.P. 957 - L.D. 1340

An Act To Ensure Maine's Preparedness for Hazardous Oil Spills

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §551, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1997, c. 364, §26 and 27, is further amended to read:

4. Funding. The Maine Coastal and Inland Surface Oil Clean-up Fund is funded pursuant to this subsection.

A. License fees are 3¢ per barrel of unrefined crude oil and all other refined oil, including #6 fuel oil, #2 fuel oil, kerosene, gasoline, jet fuel and diesel fuel, transferred by the licensee during the licensing period and must be paid monthly by the licensee on the basis of records certified to the commissioner. License fees must be paid to the department and upon receipt by it credited to the Maine Coastal and Inland Surface Oil Clean-up Fund.

D. Any person required to register under section 545-B and who first transports oil in Maine shall pay 3¢ per barrel for all crude and refined oil, including #6 fuel oil, #2 fuel oil, kerosene, gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel and liquid asphalt transported by the registrant during the period of registration. Fees must be paid monthly by the registrant on the basis of records certified to the commissioner. Fees must be paid to the department and upon receipt by it credited to the Maine Coastal and Inland Surface Oil Clean-up Fund. The registrant shall make available to the commissioner and the commissioner's authorized representatives all documents relating to the oil transported by the

registrant during the period of registration. This paragraph does not apply to waste oil transported into Maine in any motor vehicle that has a valid license issued by the department for the transportation of waste oil pursuant to section 1319-O and is subject to fees established under section 1319-I.

E. When the commissioner projects that the fund balance will reach \$6,000,000, the commissioner shall provide a 15-day notice that the per barrel fees assessed under this subsection will be suspended. The \$6,000,000 fund limit may be exceeded to accept transfer fees assessed or received after the 15-day notice has been issued. Following any suspension of fees assessed under this subsection, the commissioner shall provide a 15-day advance notice to licensees before fees are re-imposed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 350

H.P. 861 - L.D. 1216

An Act To Amend the Freedom of Access Act

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §408-A, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 662, §5, is amended to read:

3. Acknowledgment; clarification; time estimate; cost estimate. The agency or official having custody or control of a public record shall acknowledge receipt of a request made according to this section within a reasonable period of time, 5 working days of receiving the request and may request clarification concerning which public record or public records are being requested. The Within a reasonable time of receiving the request, the agency or official shall provide a good faith, nonbinding estimate of the time within which the agency or official will comply with the request, as well as a cost estimate as provided in subsection 9. The agency or official shall make a good faith effort to fully respond to the request within the estimated time.

Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §408-A, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 662, §5, is amended to read:

4. Refusals; denials. If a body or an agency or official having custody or control of any public record refuses permission to inspect or copy or abstract a public record, the body or agency or official shall provide written notice of the denial, stating the reason for the denial, within 5 working days of the receipt of the request for inspection or copying. Failure to comply with this subsection is considered failure to allow in-