

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 2014 to July 16, 2015

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 15, 2015

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
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TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2015

CHAPTER 36
H.P. 591 - L.D. 872

**Resolve, Establishing a Task
Force To Ensure Integrity in
the Use of Service Animals**

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

Whereas, this resolve establishes a task force to study training and certification requirements of service animals, methods of disseminating information about service animals to the public and documentation of training and certification of service animals; and

Whereas, the business of the task force must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that it may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; 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, be it

Sec. 1. Task force to ensure integrity in the use of service animals. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall convene a task force of interested parties to study:

1. Training requirements for service animals;
2. Certifying organizations and existing certification requirements for service animals and development of new state-based certification requirements, if needed;
3. The necessity of educating the public about service animals and methods of disseminating information about service animals;
4. Documentation of training and certification of service animals and the development of additional documentation and proofs, if needed; and
5. Housing issues related to service animals; and be it further

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall invite the following individuals to participate in the task force: 2 trainers of service or therapy animals, a restaurant owner or operator, a member of the business community, a member of the Maine Human Rights Commission or a designee selected by the commission, a member from the public education system, a member of the Maine Real Estate Managers Association, a representative of the Central

Maine Apartment Owners Association or the Maine Apartment Owners and Managers Association, a resident of the State with physical disabilities, a resident of the State with nonphysical disabilities, an attorney who specializes in disability law with experience in both state and federal laws governing service animals and the state accessibility coordinator from the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services; and be it further

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 2, 2015, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall report the task force's recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may submit a bill related to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

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

Effective June 27, 2015.

CHAPTER 37
H.P. 863 - L.D. 1263

**Resolve, To Create
Sustainable Growth in Maine's
Distributed Energy Sector
That Uses Market Forces To
Fairly Compensate Energy
Producers**

Preamble. Whereas, the Legislature finds that net energy billing is a simple mechanism that has supported the development of distributed generation in Maine, but net energy billing may not provide a suitable long-term foundation for distributed generation; and

Whereas, the Legislature finds that it is in the public interest to develop an alternative to net energy billing that fairly and transparently allocates the costs and benefits of distributed generation to all customers, allows participation by all customers and creates a sustainable platform for future growth of distributed generation to the benefit of all ratepayers; and

Whereas, the Legislature finds that the policy structure described within the Office of the Public Advocate's white paper entitled "A Ratepayer Focused Strategy for Distributed Solar in Maine" merits further exploration; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Stakeholder discussions. Resolved: That the Public Utilities Commission shall, using existing resources, convene a stakeholder group to develop an alternative to net energy billing, as defined in