

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2016 to August 2, 2017

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
NOVEMBER 1, 2017

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

Augusta, Maine
2017

6724, subsection 3 is confidential and is not a public record within the meaning of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1. Each report or statement filed with the superintendent pursuant to section 6707, except those filed by or with respect to industrial insured groups as defined in section 6701, subsection 8, is confidential and is not a public record within the meaning of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1. The confidential nature of this information does not limit the ability of the superintendent, in the superintendent's discretion, to disclose such information to a public official in another state, as long as the public official agrees in writing to maintain the confidentiality of such information and the laws of the state in which the public official serves designate such information as confidential.

Sec. G-10. 24-A MRSA §6724, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 335, §23, is amended to read:

2. Formation. One or more sponsors may form a sponsored captive insurance company under this chapter. In addition to the general provisions of this chapter, the provisions of this section apply to sponsored captive insurance companies. A sponsored captive insurance company must be incorporated as a stock insurer with its capital divided into shares and held by the stockholder, as a nonprofit corporation with one or more members or as a ~~manager-managed~~ limited liability company with a limited liability company agreement approved by the superintendent.

Sec. G-11. 24-A MRSA §6724, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 335, §23, is amended to read:

B. Each participant contract must specify one or more protected cells as the sole source of the participant's coverage and limit the covered losses of the participant to its pro rata share of an amount not to exceed the amount recoverable from the assets of the protected cell or cells identified in the contract and shall provide for pro rata distribution if the assets of a cell are insufficient to pay all liabilities to participants. If the sponsored captive insurance company enters into a contract involving more than one protected cell, the rights and obligations relating to each protected cell must be several rather than joint and the contract must make clear provisions for apportionment of the rights and obligations between protected cells;

Sec. G-12. 24-A MRSA §6724, sub-§4, ¶B-1 is enacted to read:

B-1. A sponsored captive insurance company may only reinsure risks of its participants, and its liability to a ceding insurer must be limited to amounts recoverable from the assets of the protected cell or cells participating in the risks giving rise to the underlying losses in accordance with paragraph B. Any management fees or other unallocated expenses payable to a ceding insurer or

its affiliate or contractor must be charged pro rata to the protected cell or cells assuming the reinsurance and may not be a liability of the general account;

Sec. G-13. 24-A MRSA §6724, sub-§4, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 335, §23, is amended to read:

C. Each protected cell must be accounted for separately on the books and records of the sponsored captive insurance company to reflect the financial condition and results of operations of each protected cell, net income or loss, dividends or other distributions to participants and such other factors as may be provided in the participant contract or required by the superintendent. All attributions of assets and liabilities between a protected cell and the general account must be in accordance with the plan of operation approved by the superintendent;

Sec. G-14. 24-A MRSA §6724, sub-§4, ¶L, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 335, §23, is amended to read:

L. A sponsored captive insurance company shall notify the superintendent in writing within 10 business days after the ~~special purpose reinsurance vehicle company~~ or any protected cell becomes impaired or insolvent.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 170

H.P. 1081 - L.D. 1570

An Act To Make Technical Changes to Maine's Tax Laws

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 36 MRSA §191, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2015, c. 490, §§2 to 4 and c. 494, Pt. A, §§41 to 43, is further amended to read:

2. Exemptions. This section ~~shall~~ may not be construed to prohibit the following:

A. The delivery to a taxpayer or ~~his~~ the taxpayer's duly authorized representative of a certified copy of any return, report or other information filed by the taxpayer pursuant to this Title;

A-1. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Maine Potato Board of information obtained by the assessor in the administration of chapter 710;

B. The publication of statistics so classified to prevent the identification of particular reports or returns and the items thereof;

C. The inspection by the Attorney General of information filed by any taxpayer who has requested review of any tax under this Title or against whom an action or proceeding for collection of tax has been instituted; or the production in court or to the board on behalf of the State Tax Assessor, or any other party to an action or proceeding under this Title, of so much and no more of the information as is pertinent to the action or proceeding;

D. The disclosure of information to duly authorized officers of the United States and of other states, districts and territories of the United States and of Canada and its provinces for use in administration and enforcement of this Title or of the tax laws of those jurisdictions. With respect to enforcement of the tax laws of other jurisdictions, the information may not be given to the duly authorized officer unless the officer's government permits a substantially similar disclosure of information to the taxing officials of this State and provides for the confidentiality of information in a manner substantially similar to the manner provided in this section;

E. The provision of information, pursuant to a contract for administrative services, to a person retained on an independent contract basis or the authorized employees of that person or the provision of information to state employees outside the Bureau of Revenue Services for the purpose of acquiring assistance in the administration of this Title and the return to employees of the Bureau of Revenue Services of the information provided and additional information generated as a product of the administrative services provided;

F. The transmission of information among employees of the Bureau of Revenue Services for the purposes of enforcing and administering the tax laws of this State and the delivery by a register of deeds to the State Tax Assessor or delivery by the State Tax Assessor to the appropriate municipal assessor or to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission or the Department of Health and Human Services of "declarations of value" in accordance with section 4641-D. The State Tax Assessor may require entities requesting information pursuant to this paragraph other than municipal assessors to provide resources sufficient to cover the cost of providing the forms;

G. The disclosure to the Attorney General of information related to a person who is the subject of a criminal investigation or prosecution, and the subsequent disclosure of that information by the Attorney General to a district attorney, an assis-

tant district attorney or a state, county or local law enforcement agency that is participating in the criminal investigation or prosecution of that person. A request from the Attorney General for information related to a person who is the subject of a criminal investigation or prosecution must be submitted to the State Tax Assessor in writing and must include:

- (1) The name and address of the person to whom the requested information relates;
- (2) The taxable period or periods to which the requested information relates;
- (3) The statutory authority under which the criminal investigation or prosecution is being conducted; and
- (4) The specific reason the requested information is, or may be, relevant to the criminal investigation or prosecution.

The Attorney General or a district attorney, assistant district attorney or law enforcement agency to which the Attorney General has disclosed tax information related to a person who is the subject of a criminal investigation or prosecution shall retain physical control of that information until the conclusion of the criminal investigation or prosecution for which the information was requested, after which the information must be returned immediately to the assessor;

H. The disclosure by the State Tax Assessor of the fact that a person is or is not registered under this Title or disclosure of both the fact that a registration under this Title has been revoked and the reasons for revocation;

I. The disclosure of information acquired pursuant to Part 2;

J. The disclosure to a state agency seeking setoff of a liquidated debt against a tax refund pursuant to section 5276-A of information necessary to effectuate the intent of that section;

K. The disclosure by a municipal assessor, or by the State Tax Assessor with regard to the unorganized territory, of information contained on a declaration of value filed pursuant to section 4641-D or the Internet publication by the State Tax Assessor of information, other than taxpayer identification numbers, obtained from declarations of value filed pursuant to section 4641-D, except that, upon request by an individual who is certified by the Secretary of State as a participant in the Address Confidentiality Program pursuant to Title 5, section 90-B, the municipal assessor shall redact the name of that individual on the declaration of value form prior to disclosure;

L. The listing of gasoline distributors possessing a certificate under section 2904 and the number of taxable gallons sold by each gasoline distributor in this State each month;

M. The disclosure by employees of the Bureau of Revenue Services, in connection with their official duties relating to any examination, collection activity, civil or criminal tax investigation or any other offense under this Title, of return information to the limited extent that disclosure is necessary in obtaining information, which is not otherwise available, with respect to the correct determination of tax, liability for tax or the amount to be collected or with respect to the enforcement of this Title;

N. The disclosure by the State Tax Assessor of computerized individual income tax data, without identification by taxpayer name, number or address, to a research agency of the Legislature;

O. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Department of Health and Human Services of an individual's residence, employer, income and assets for child support enforcement purposes as required by the Social Security Act, 42 United States Code, Chapter 7, subchapter IV, Part D (1966), when a request containing the payor's social security number is made by the department;

P. The public disclosure by the State Tax Assessor of the name, last known business address and title of the professional license or certificate of any person whose license or certificate of authority to conduct a profession, trade or business in this State has not been renewed, reissued or otherwise extended by order of the assessor pursuant to section 175. This disclosure may be made only after no further administrative or judicial review of the order is available under section 151 or the Maine Administrative Procedure Act;

Q. The listing of persons possessing certificates under section 3204 and the number of taxable gallons sold by each person possessing a certificate in this State each month;

R. The disclosure to the Department of Health and Human Services of information relating to the administration and collection of the taxes imposed by chapter 358, chapter 373, chapter 375 and chapter 377;

~~S. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Department of Health and Human Services of the names and social security numbers of applicants for the Maine Residents Property Tax Relief Program for the purpose of identifying those who are not eligible for that program pursuant to section 6207, subsection 3. The Department of Health and Human Services may not disclose names or social security numbers to any person,~~

~~agency or organization, other than the Bureau of Revenue Services, nor may those names and social security numbers be used for any purpose other than the purpose stated in this paragraph;~~

T. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Department of Health and Human Services of information in the possession of the bureau identifying the location of an interest-bearing account in the name and social security number of a delinquent payor of child support as requested by the Department of Health and Human Services;

U. The disclosure by employees of the Bureau of Revenue Services to designated representatives of the Secretary of State of information required by the Secretary of State for the administration of the special fuel tax imposed by chapter 459;

V. The disclosure by employees of the Bureau of Revenue Services, to designated representatives of the Department of Labor, of all information required by the State Tax Assessor and the Commissioner of Labor for the administration of the taxes imposed by Part 8 and by Title 26, chapter 13 and the Competitive Skills Scholarship Fund contribution imposed by Title 26, section 1166 and of all information required by the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor for the enforcement of Title 26, section 872;

W. The disclosure by the State Tax Assessor to the State Auditor when necessary to the performance of the State Auditor's official duties;

Y. The disclosure by the State Tax Assessor, upon request in writing of any individual against whom an assessment has been made pursuant to section 177, subsection 1, of the following information:

- (1) Information regarding the underlying tax liability to the extent necessary to apprise the individual of the basis of the assessment;
- (2) The name of any other individual against whom an assessment has been made for the same underlying tax debt; and
- (3) The general nature of any steps taken by the assessor to collect the underlying tax debt from any other individuals and the amount collected;

Z. The disclosure to the Treasurer of State when necessary for the performance of the Treasurer of State's official duties as administrator under Title 33, chapter 41 of the following information:

- (1) The current mailing address for a taxpayer for purposes of returning unclaimed or abandoned property to the rightful owner or heir; and

(2) The names and mailing addresses of all Maine corporate income tax filers in an electronic medium prescribed by the State Tax Assessor;

AA. The disclosure by employees of the bureau to designated representatives of the Finance Authority of Maine necessary for the administration of section 6656, subsection 3 and section 6758, subsection 4 and of information required to ensure that recipients of certain benefits under Title 20-A, chapter 417-E are eligible to receive such benefits;

BB. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Care and Head Start of taxpayer information directly relating to the certification of investments eligible for or the eligibility of a taxpayer for the quality child care investment credit provided by section 5219-Q;

CC. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation of information necessary for the administration of Title 10, chapter 222;

DD. The delivery of a certified copy of any return, report or other information provided or filed pursuant to this Title by a partnership, corporation, trust or estate or any report of any examination of a return filed by a partnership, corporation, trust or estate to any person:

- (1) Who signed the return;
- (2) Who is the personal representative or executor of the estate filing the return;
- (3) Who was a member of the partnership filing the return during any part of the period covered by the return;
- (4) Who is a trustee of the trust filing the return;
- (5) Who was a shareholder during any part of the period covered by the return filed by an S corporation;
- (6) Who is an officer, or a bona fide shareholder of record owning 1% or more of the outstanding stock, of the corporation filing the return;
- (7) Who is the person authorized to act for the corporation if the corporation has been dissolved; or
- (8) Who is the duly authorized representative of any of the persons described in subparagraphs (1) to (7).

The exception under this paragraph does not include the disclosure of confidential information of a particular partner, shareholder, beneficiary or

trustee or other person receiving income from one of the entities described in subparagraphs (1) to (8) unless otherwise authorized;

EE. The disclosure by the State Tax Assessor of the fact that a person has or has not been issued a certificate of exemption pursuant to section 1760, 2013 or 2557, a provisional resale certificate pursuant to section 1754-B, subsection 2-B or a resale certificate pursuant to section 1754-B, subsection 2-C;

FF. The disclosure to the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles of whether the person seeking registration of a vehicle has paid the tax imposed by Part 3 with respect to that vehicle;

GG. The disclosure to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Division of Licensing and Registration of whether the person seeking registration of a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or watercraft has paid the tax imposed by Part 3 with respect to that snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or watercraft;

II. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Maine Milk Commission of information on the quantity of packaged milk handled in the State and subject to the milk handling fee established in section 4902 and other information obtained by the assessor in the administration of chapter 721;

JJ. The disclosure to the State Purchasing Agent of a person's sales tax standing as necessary to enforce Title 5, section 1825-B, subsection 14;

KK. The disclosure of information necessary to administer the setoff of liquidated tax debts pursuant to section 185, ~~subsection 3~~;

LL. The disclosure to any state agency of information relating to the administration and collection of any debt transferred to the bureau for collection pursuant to section 112-A;

MM. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Department of Economic and Community Development of information required for the administration of the visual media production credit under section 5219-Y, the employment tax increment financing program under chapter 917, the visual media production reimbursement program under chapter 919-A or the Pine Tree Development Zone program under Title 30-A, chapter 206, subchapter 4;

NN. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine of information required for or submitted to the assessor in connection with the administration of the tax imposed under chapter 701;

OO. The disclosure to duly authorized officers of the Federal Government and of other state governments of information necessary to administer a set-off agreement pursuant to section 112, subsection 13. The information may not be disclosed unless the officer's government permits a substantially similar disclosure of information to the taxing officials of this State and protects the confidentiality of the information in a manner substantially similar to that provided by this section;

PP. The disclosure to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry of information contained on the commercial forestry excise tax return filed pursuant to section 2726, such as the landowner name, address and acreage, to facilitate the administration of chapter 367;

QQ. The disclosure of registration, reporting and payment information to the Department of Environmental Protection necessary for the administration of Title 38, chapter 33;

RR. The disclosure to the Finance Authority of Maine of the cumulative value of eligible premiums submitted for reimbursement pursuant to Title 10, section 1020-C;

SS. The disclosure of information to the Finance Authority of Maine necessary for the administration of the new markets capital investment credit in sections 2533 and 5219-HH and to the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services as necessary for the execution of the memorandum of agreement pursuant to section 5219-HH, subsection 3;

TT. The disclosure to tax officials of other states, and to clearinghouses and other administrative entities acting on behalf of participating states, of information necessary for the administration of a multistate agreement entered into pursuant to section 2532;

UU. The production in court on behalf of the assessor or any other party to an action or proceeding under this Title, or the production pursuant to a discovery request under the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure or a request under the freedom of access laws, of any reconsideration decision or advisory ruling issued on or after July 1, 2012, in redacted format so as not to reveal information from which the taxpayer may be identified, except that federal returns and federal return information provided to the State by the Internal Revenue Service may not be disclosed except as permitted by federal law. A person requesting the production of any such document shall pay, at the time the request is made, all direct and indirect costs associated with the redacting of information from which the taxpayer or other interested party may

be identified, plus an additional fee of \$100 per request;

VV. The disclosure by the assessor to the taxpayer advocate under section 151-C of information related to a petition for reconsideration filed by a taxpayer pursuant to section 151. The taxpayer advocate is prohibited from disclosing information obtained pursuant to this paragraph other than to the particular taxpayer to whom the information pertains;

WW. The disclosure of information to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife necessary for the administration of the credit for Maine fishery infrastructure investment under section 5216-D;

XX. The disclosure of information by the assessor to the board, except that such disclosure is limited to information that is pertinent to an appeal or other action or proceeding before the board;

YY. The inspection and disclosure of information by the board to the extent necessary to conduct appeals procedures pursuant to this Title and issue a decision on an appeal to the parties. The board may make available to the public redacted decisions that do not disclose the identity of a taxpayer or any information made confidential by state or federal statute;

ZZ. The disclosure by the State Tax Assessor to a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business that has filed a claim for reimbursement under section 2016 of information related to any insufficiency of the claim, including records of a contractor or subcontractor that assigned the claim for reimbursement to the qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business and records of the vendors of the contractor or subcontractor;

ZZ. The disclosure by the State Tax Assessor to a qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business that has filed a claim for reimbursement under section 2016 of information related to any insufficiency of the claim, including records of a contractor or subcontractor that assigned the claim for reimbursement to the qualified Pine Tree Development Zone business and records of the vendors of the contractor or subcontractor; and

AAA. The disclosure of information by the State Tax Assessor or the Associate Commissioner for Tax Policy to the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability under Title 3, section 991 for the review and evaluation of tax expenditures pursuant to Title 3, chapter 37; and

AAA. The disclosure of information by the State Tax Assessor or the Associate Commissioner for Tax Policy to the Office of Program Evaluation

and Government Accountability under Title 3, section 991 for the review and evaluation of tax expenditures pursuant to Title 3, chapter 37.

BBB. The disclosure to an authorized representative of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance of information necessary to determine whether a long-term disability income protection plan or short-term disability income protection plan as described in section 5219-NN, subsection 1 qualifies for the disability income protection plans in the workplace credit provided by section 5219-NN.

PART B

Sec. B-1. 36 MRSA §305, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2003, c. 426, §2, is further amended to read:

1. Just value. Certify to the Secretary of State before the first day of February each year the equalized just value of all real and personal property in each municipality and unorganized place that is subject to taxation under the laws of this State, ~~except that percentage of captured assessed value located within a tax increment financing district that is used to finance that district's development plan, the captured assessed value located within a municipal affordable housing development district and the valuation amount by which the current assessed value of commercial and industrial property within a municipal incentive development zone, as determined in Title 30-A, section 5284, exceeds the assessed value of commercial and industrial property within the zone as of the date the zone is approved by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, known in this subsection as the "sheltered value," up to the amount invested by a municipality in infrastructure improvements under an infrastructure improvement plan adopted pursuant to Title 30-A, section 5283. The equalized just value must be uniformly assessed in each municipality and unorganized place and be based on 100% of the current market value. It must separately show for each municipality and unorganized place the actual or estimated value of all real estate that is exempt from property taxation by law or is the captured value within a tax increment financing district that is used to finance that district's development plan, as reported on the municipal valuation return filed pursuant to section 383, or that is the sheltered value of a municipal incentive development zone. The valuation as filed remains in effect until the next valuation is filed and is the basis for the computation and apportionment of the state and county taxes; The equalized just value excludes the following:~~

A. That percentage of captured assessed value located within a tax increment financing district that is used to finance that district's development plan;

B. The captured assessed value located within a municipal affordable housing development district; and

C. The amount by which the current assessed value of commercial and industrial property within a municipal incentive development zone exceeds the assessed value of that property as of the date the development zone is approved by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. This excess value as determined under Title 30-A, chapter 208-A and referred to in this subsection as the "sheltered value" is limited to the amount invested by a municipality in infrastructure improvements pursuant to the infrastructure improvement plan adopted under Title 30-A, chapter 208-A.

The equalized just value must be uniformly assessed in each municipality and unorganized place and be based on 100% of the current market value. The bureau's valuation documents must separately show for each municipality and unorganized place the actual or estimated value of all real estate that is exempt from property taxation by law or is the captured value within a tax increment financing district that is used to finance that district's development plan, as reported on the municipal valuation return filed pursuant to section 383, or that is the sheltered value of a municipal incentive development zone;

Sec. B-2. 36 MRSA §327, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2001, c. 583, §10, is further amended to read:

3. Employment of assessor. Any municipal assessing unit may employ a part-time, non-certified assessor or contract with a firm or organization that provides assessing services; when any municipal assessing unit or primary assessing area employs a full-time, professional assessor, this assessor must be certified by the ~~Bureau of Revenue Services~~ bureau as a professionally trained assessor. The bureau shall publish, for the information of the municipalities, a ~~listing of certified assessors and~~ list of assessing firms or organizations. The bureau shall provide to a municipality, on request by the municipality, a list of certified assessors.

Sec. B-3. 36 MRSA §576, first and 2nd ¶¶, as amended by PL 1997, c. 504, §6, are further amended to read:

The State Tax Assessor shall determine the average annual net wood production rate for each forest type described in section 573, subsections 5 ~~to~~, 6 and 7, in each county or region to be used in determining valuations applicable to forest land under this subchapter, on the basis of the surveys of average annual growth rates applicable in the State made from time to time by the United States Forest Service or by the Maine Forestry Bureau. The growth rate surveys must

be reduced by the percentage discount factor prescribed by section 576-B to reflect the growth that can be extracted on a sustained basis. The rates when determined remain in effect without change for each county through the property tax year ending March 31, 1975. In 1974 and in every 10th year thereafter, the State Tax Assessor shall review and set rates for the following 10-year period in the same manner.

The State Tax Assessor shall determine the average stumpage value for each forest type described in section 573, subsections 5 ~~to~~ 6 and 7, applicable in each county, or in alternative forest economic regions as the assessor designates, after passage of this subchapter and in each year thereafter, taking into consideration the prices upon sales of sound standing timber of that forest type in that area during the previous calendar year, and any other appropriate considerations.

Sec. B-4. 36 MRSA §578, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2011, c. 404, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Organized areas. The municipal assessors or chief assessor of a primary assessing area shall adjust the State Tax Assessor's 100% valuation per acre for each forest type of their county by whatever ratio, or percentage of current just value, is applied to other property within the municipality to obtain the assessed values. Forest land in the organized areas, subject to taxation under this subchapter, must be taxed at the property tax rate applicable to other property in the municipality.

The State Tax Assessor shall determine annually the amount of acreage in each municipality that is classified and taxed in accordance with this subchapter. Each municipality is entitled to annual payments distributed in accordance with this section from money appropriated by the Legislature if it submits an annual return in accordance with section 383 and if it achieves the minimum assessment ratio established in section 327. The State Tax Assessor shall pay any municipal claim found to be in satisfactory form by ~~August 1st~~ October 15th of the year following the submission of the annual return. The municipal reimbursement appropriation is calculated on the basis of 90% of the per acre tax revenue lost as a result of this subchapter. For property tax years based on the status of property on April 1, 2008 and April 1, 2009, municipal reimbursement under this section is further limited to the amount appropriated by the Legislature and distributed on a pro rata basis by the State Tax Assessor for all timely filed claims. For purposes of this section, "classified forest lands" means forest lands classified pursuant to this subchapter as well as all areas identified as forested land within farmland parcels that are transferred from tree growth classification pursuant to section 1112 on or after October 1, 2011. For the purposes of this section, the tax lost is the tax that would have been assessed, but for this

subchapter, on the classified forest lands if they were assessed according to the undeveloped acreage valuations used in the state valuation then in effect, or according to the current local valuation on undeveloped acreage, whichever is less, minus the tax that was actually assessed on the same lands in accordance with this subchapter, and adjusted for the aggregate municipal savings in required educational costs attributable to reduced state valuation. A municipality that fails to achieve the minimum assessment ratio established in section 327 loses 10% of the reimbursement provided by this section for each one percentage point the minimum assessment ratio falls below the ratio established in section 327.

The State Tax Assessor shall adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules for the purposes of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

C. The State Tax Assessor shall distribute reimbursement under this section to each municipality in proportion to the product of the reduced tree growth valuation of the municipality multiplied by the property tax burden of the municipality. For purposes of this paragraph, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

(1) "Property tax burden" means the total real and personal property taxes assessed in the most recently completed municipal fiscal year, except the taxes assessed on captured value within a tax increment financing district, divided by the latest state valuation certified to the Secretary of State.

(2) "Undeveloped land" means rear acreage and unimproved nonwaterfront acreage that is not:

- (a) Classified under the laws governing current use valuation set forth in chapter 105, subchapter 2-A, 10 or 10-A;
- (b) A base lot; or
- (c) Waste land.

(3) "Average value of undeveloped land" means the per acre undeveloped land valuations used in the state valuation then in effect, or according to the current local valuation on undeveloped land as determined for state valuation purposes, whichever is less.

(4) "Reduced tree growth valuation" means the difference between the average value of undeveloped land and the average value of tree growth land times the total number of acres classified as forest land under this subchapter plus the total number of acres of forest land that is transferred from tree growth

classification to farmland classification pursuant to section 1112 on or after October 1, 2011.

Sec. B-5. 36 MRSA §603, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 303, is amended to read:

1-A. Cargo trailers. A cargo trailer ~~shall~~ must be taxed in the place ~~where it is primarily located~~ of its primary location on April 1st, even though the cargo trailer may not be present in that place on April 1st.

For purposes of this subsection, "primary location" means the place where the cargo trailer is usually based and where it regularly returns for repairs, supplies and activities related to its use.

Sec. B-6. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§1, ¶E, as repealed and replaced by PL 1995, c. 462, Pt. A, §68, is amended to read:

E. The word "veteran" as used in this subsection means any person, male or female, who was ~~in active service on active duty~~ in the Armed Forces of the United States and who, if discharged, retired or separated from the Armed Forces, was discharged, retired or separated under other than dishonorable conditions.

Sec. B-7. 36 MRSA §691, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 571, Pt. II, §1 and affected by §5, is further amended to read:

A. "Eligible business equipment" means qualified property that, in the absence of this subchapter, would first be subject to assessment under this Part on or after April 1, 2008. "Eligible business equipment" includes, without limitation, repair parts, replacement parts, replacement equipment, additions, accessions and accessories to other qualified business property that first became subject to assessment under this Part before April 1, 2008 if the part, addition, equipment, accession or accessory would, in the absence of this subchapter, first be subject to assessment under this Part on or after April 1, 2008. "Eligible business equipment" also includes inventory parts. "Eligible business equipment" does not include property eligible for exemption under section 652.

"Eligible business equipment" does not include:

- (1) Office furniture, including, without limitation, tables, chairs, desks, bookcases, filing cabinets and modular office partitions;
- (2) Lamps and lighting fixtures used primarily for the purpose of providing general purpose office or worker lighting;
- (3) Property owned or used by an excluded person;
- (4) Telecommunications personal property subject to the tax imposed by section 457;

(5) Gambling machines or devices, including any device, machine, paraphernalia or equipment that is used or usable in the playing phases of any gambling activity as that term is defined in Title 8, section 1001, subsection 15, whether that activity consists of gambling between persons or gambling by a person involving the playing of a machine. "Gambling machines or devices" includes, without limitation:

- (a) Associated equipment as defined in Title 8, section 1001, subsection 2;
- (b) Computer equipment used directly and primarily in the operation of a slot machine as defined in Title 8, section 1001, subsection 39;
- (c) An electronic video machine as defined in Title 17, section 1831, subsection 4;
- (d) Equipment used in the playing phases of lottery schemes; and
- (e) Repair and replacement parts of a gambling machine or device;

(6) Property located at a retail sales facility and used primarily in a retail sales activity unless the property is owned by a business that operates a retail sales facility in the State exceeding 100,000 square feet of interior customer selling space that is used primarily for retail sales and whose Maine-based operations derive less than 30% of their total annual revenue on a calendar year basis from sales that are made at a retail sales facility located in the State. For purposes of this subparagraph, the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) "Primarily" means more than 50% of the time;
- (b) "Retail sales activity" means an activity associated with the selection and purchase of goods or services or the rental of tangible personal property. "Retail sales activity" does not include production as defined in section 1752, subsection 9-B; and
- (c) "Retail sales facility" means a structure used to serve customers who are physically present at the facility for the purpose of selecting and purchasing goods or services at retail or for renting tangible personal property. "Retail sales facility" does not include a separate structure that is used as a warehouse or call center facility;

(7) Property that is not entitled to an exemption by reason of the additional limitations imposed by subsection 2; or

(8) Personal property that would otherwise be entitled to exemption under this subchapter used primarily to support a telecommunications antenna used by a telecommunications business subject to the tax imposed by section 457.

Sec. B-8. 36 MRSA §693, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2013, c. 544, §1 and affected by §7, is further amended to read:

1. Reporting. On or before ~~May~~ April 1st of each year, a taxpayer claiming an exemption under this ~~section~~ subchapter shall file a report with the assessor of the taxing jurisdiction in which the property would otherwise be subject to taxation on April 1st of that year. The report must identify the property for which exemption is claimed that would otherwise be subject to taxation on April 1st of that year and must be made on a form prescribed by the State Tax Assessor or substitute form approved by the State Tax Assessor. The State Tax Assessor shall furnish copies of the form to each municipality in the State and the form must be made available to taxpayers prior to April 1st annually. The assessor of the taxing jurisdiction may require the taxpayer to sign the form and make oath to its truth. If the report is not filed by April 1st, the filing deadline is automatically extended to May 1st without the need for the taxpayer to request or the assessor to grant that extension. Upon written request, before the commitment of taxes, the assessor may ~~at any time~~ grant further extensions of time to file the report. If a taxpayer fails to file the report in a timely manner, including any extensions of time, the taxpayer may not obtain an exemption for that property under this subchapter for that tax year. The assessor of the taxing jurisdiction may require in writing that a taxpayer answer in writing all reasonable inquiries as to the property for which exemption is requested. A taxpayer has 30 days from receipt of such an inquiry to respond. Upon written request, a taxpayer is entitled to a 30-day extension to respond to the inquiry and the assessor may at any time grant additional extensions upon written request. The answer to any such inquiry is not binding on the assessor.

All notices and requests provided pursuant to this subsection must be made by personal delivery or certified mail and must conspicuously state the consequences of the taxpayer's failure to respond to the notice or request in a timely manner.

If an exemption has already been accepted and the State Tax Assessor subsequently determines that the property is not entitled to exemption, a supplemental assessment must be made within 3 years of the original assessment date with respect to the property in compliance with section 713, without regard to the

limitations contained in that section regarding the justification necessary for a supplemental assessment.

Sec. B-9. 36 MRSA §1487, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 2009, c. 434, §21, is amended to read:

2. State Tax Assessor. The State Tax Assessor shall appoint agents to collect the excise tax in the unorganized territory. Agents, including ~~municipalities designated as agents~~ municipal tax collectors or their designees, are allowed a fee of \$6 for each tax receipt issued. The State Tax Assessor may authorize the offset of credit card fees incurred in the collection of the excise taxes against the receipts from those collections. Agents shall deposit the remainder on or before the 20th day of each month following receipt with the Treasurer of State. The Treasurer of State shall make quarterly payments to each county in an amount that is equal to the receipts for that period from each county. Those payments must be made at the same time as payments under section 1606. County receipts under this section must be deposited in the county's unorganized territory fund.

Sec. B-10. 36 MRSA §6271, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 489, §5, is amended to read:

3. Effect of deferral. If property taxes are deferred under the program, the lien established on the eligible homestead under section 552 continues for the purpose of protecting the municipal interest in the tax-deferred property. Interest on the deferred taxes accrues at the rate of ~~0.5%~~ 0.5 percentage points above the otherwise applicable rate for delinquent taxes. In order to preserve the right to enforce the lien, the municipality shall record in the county registry of deeds a list of the tax-deferred properties of that municipality. The list must contain a description of each tax-deferred property as listed in the municipal valuation together with the name of the taxpayer listed on the valuation. The list must be updated annually to reflect the addition or deletion of tax-deferred properties, the amount of deferred taxes accrued for each property and payments received.

The recording of the tax-deferred properties under this subsection is notice that the municipality claims a lien against those properties in the amount of the deferred taxes plus interest together with any fees paid to the county registry of deeds in connection with the recording. For a property deleted from the list, the recording serves as notice of release or satisfaction of the lien, even though the amount of taxes, interest or fees is not listed.

Sec. B-11. 36 MRSA §6656, sub-§1-A, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 239, §2, is amended to read:

B. The municipal tax collector certifies to the State Tax Assessor or, in the case of the unorganized territory, the State Tax Assessor determines that the taxpayer is delinquent in the payment of

personal property taxes. Certification by the municipal tax collector must be made on a form prescribed by the State Tax Assessor and list the tax and interest due and the year for which it is due. The certification by the municipal tax collector or determination by the State Tax Assessor must be made from July 1st to July 15th ~~of~~ in the same year as the application for which the reimbursement is to be suspended.

PART C

Sec. C-1. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§3-B, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. OOOO, §2 and affected by §7, is amended to read:

B. Medicines, tonics, vitamins and preparations ~~in liquid, powdered, granular, tablet, capsule, lozenge or pill form,~~ sold as dietary supplements or adjuncts, except when sold on the prescription of a physician;

Sec. C-2. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§8-A, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 439, Pt. TTTT, §1 and affected by §3, is amended to read:

C. All food and drinks sold ~~from an establishment whose~~ by a retailer at a particular retail location when the sales of food and drinks at that location that are prepared by the retailer account for more than 75% of the ~~establishment's~~ gross receipts reported with respect to that location by the retailer.

Sec. C-3. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§8-D, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 495, §1 and affected by §4, is repealed.

Sec. C-4. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§5-A, as amended by PL 2015, c. 495, §3 and affected by §4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

5-A. Prosthetic or orthotic devices. Sales of:

A. Prosthetic or orthotic devices sold by means of an order issued by a health care practitioner as defined in Title 24, section 2502, subsection 1-A who is licensed under Title 32; and

B. Crutches and wheelchairs for the use of sick, injured or disabled persons and not for rental.

Sec. C-5. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§20, as amended by PL 2007, c. 438, §37, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

20. Continuous residence; refunds and credits.
Rental charged to the following:

A. An individual who resides continuously for 28 days or more at any one hotel, rooming house, tourist camp or trailer camp, if the individual does not maintain a primary residence at some other location or is residing away from the individual's primary residence in connection with employment or education; and

B. A person that rents living quarters for 28 or more consecutive days, when the living quarters are used by the person's employees in connection with their employment.

Any tax paid by an individual or person specified in paragraph A or B during the initial 28-day period must be refunded by the retailer. If the tax has been reported and paid to the State by the retailer, it may be taken as a credit by the retailer on the return filed by the retailer covering the month in which the refund was made.

Sec. C-6. 36 MRSA §1761, as amended by PL 1979, c. 541, Pt. A, §221, is further amended to read:

§1761. Advertising of payment by retailer

It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any retailer to advertise or hold out or state to the public or to any consumer, directly or indirectly, that the tax or any part ~~thereof~~ of the tax imposed by chapters 211 to 225 will be assumed or absorbed by the retailer, or that it will not be added to or included in the ~~selling~~ sale price of the property or service sold, or if added or included that it or any part ~~thereof~~ of the tax will be refunded. Any person violating any part of this section ~~shall be guilty of~~ commits a Class E crime.

Sec. C-7. 36 MRSA §1814, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1979, c. 378, §9, is further amended to read:

2. Tax liability subject to assessment, collection and enforcement. The tax liability specified in subsection 1 ~~shall be~~ is subject to assessment, collection and enforcement by the ~~State Tax Assessor~~ asses-
sor in the manner provided in chapters 7 and 211 to 225.

Sec. C-8. 36 MRSA §2551, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2005, c. 218, §32, is further amended to read:

6. Mobile telecommunications services. "Mobile telecommunications services" means commercial mobile radio service as defined in 47 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 20.3 as in effect ~~on June 1, 1999~~ October 1, 2015. For purposes of sourcing, "mobile telecommunications services" does not include air-ground radiotelephone service as defined in 47 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 22.99 as in effect ~~on June 1, 1999~~ October 1, 2015.

Sec. C-9. Retroactivity. That section of this Part that amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 1760, subsection 5-A applies retroactively to sales occurring on or after October 1, 2016.

PART D

Sec. D-1. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶II, as amended by PL 2015, c. 388, Pt. A, §3 and c. 490, §5, is further amended to read:

II. For taxable years beginning in 2014:

(1) An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(k) with respect to property placed in service in the State during the taxable year for which a credit is claimed under section 5219-MM for that taxable year; and

(2) An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(k) with respect to property for which a credit is not claimed under section 5219-MM; and

Sec. D-2. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶JJ, as amended by PL 2015, c. 490, §6 and c. 494, Pt. B, §5, is repealed.

Sec. D-3. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶X, as amended by PL 2015, c. 300, Pt. A, §39, is further amended to read:

X. The taxpayer's pro rata share of an amount that was previously added back to federal taxable income pursuant to section 5200-A, subsection 1, paragraph N; section 5200-A, subsection 1, paragraph T; section 5200-A, subsection 1, paragraph Y, subparagraph (2); section 5200-A, subsection 1, paragraph AA, subparagraph (2); ~~or~~ section 5200-A, subsection 1, paragraph BB; ~~or~~ section 5200-A, subsection 1, paragraph CC, subparagraph (2) by a corporation of which the taxpayer is a shareholder and by which, absent an S corporation election, the corporation could have reduced its federal taxable income for the taxable year pursuant to section 5200-A, subsection 2, paragraph M, R, V, Y ~~or~~ Z ~~or~~ AA;

Sec. D-4. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶BB, as amended by PL 2015, c. 382, §3, is repealed.

Sec. D-5. 36 MRSA §5124-B, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. DD, §14, is amended to read:

For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, the standard deduction of a resident individual is equal to the sum of the basic standard deduction and any additional standard deduction, subject to the phase-out under subsection 3.

Sec. D-6. 36 MRSA §5124-B, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Phase-out. The total standard deduction of the taxpayer determined in accordance with subsections 1 and 2 must be reduced by an amount equal to the total standard deduction multiplied by the following fraction:

A. For single individuals and married persons filing separate returns, the numerator is the tax-

payer's Maine adjusted gross income less \$70,000, except that the numerator may not be less than zero, and the denominator is \$75,000. In no case may the fraction contained in this paragraph produce a result that is more than one. The \$70,000 amount used to calculate the numerator in this paragraph must be adjusted for inflation in accordance with section 5403, subsection 4;

B. For individuals filing as heads of households, the numerator is the taxpayer's Maine adjusted gross income less \$105,000, except that the numerator may not be less than zero, and the denominator is \$112,500. In no case may the fraction contained in this paragraph produce a result that is more than one. The \$105,000 amount used to calculate the numerator in this paragraph must be adjusted for inflation in accordance with section 5403, subsection 4; or

C. For individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses, the numerator is the taxpayer's Maine adjusted gross income less \$140,000, except that the numerator may not be less than zero, and the denominator is \$150,000. In no case may the fraction contained in this paragraph produce a result that is more than one. The \$140,000 amount used to calculate the numerator in this paragraph must be adjusted for inflation in accordance with section 5403, subsection 4.

Sec. D-7. 36 MRSA §5125, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Phase-out. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, the total itemized deductions of the taxpayer determined in accordance with subsections 1 through 4 must be reduced by an amount equal to the total itemized deductions multiplied by the following fraction:

A. For single individuals and married persons filing separate returns, the numerator is the taxpayer's Maine adjusted gross income less \$70,000, except that the numerator may not be less than zero, and the denominator is \$75,000. In no case may the fraction contained in this paragraph produce a result that is more than one. The \$70,000 amount used to calculate the numerator in this paragraph must be adjusted for inflation in accordance with section 5403, subsection 4;

B. For individuals filing as heads of households, the numerator is the taxpayer's Maine adjusted gross income less \$105,000, except that the numerator may not be less than zero, and the denominator is \$112,500. In no case may the fraction contained in this paragraph produce a result that is more than one. The \$105,000 amount used to calculate the numerator in this paragraph must be adjusted for inflation in accordance with section 5403, subsection 4; or

C. For individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses, the numerator is the taxpayer's Maine adjusted gross income less \$140,000, except that the numerator may not be less than zero, and the denominator is \$150,000. In no case may the fraction contained in this paragraph produce a result that is more than one. The \$140,000 amount used to calculate the numerator in this paragraph must be adjusted for inflation in accordance with section 5403, subsection 4.

Sec. D-8. 36 MRSA §5217-D, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2015, c. 328, §7, is further amended to read:

3. Calculation of the credit; qualified individuals. Subject to subsection 2 and except as provided in this subsection, the credit with respect to a qualified individual is equal to the amount determined under paragraph A or paragraph B, whichever is less, multiplied by the proration factor:

A. The benchmark loan payment multiplied by the number of months during the taxable year in which the taxpayer made loan payments; or

B. The monthly loan payment amount multiplied by the number of months during the taxable year in which the taxpayer made loan payments.

The credit under this subsection for a qualified individual under subsection 1, paragraph G, subparagraph (1), division (a) who transferred to an accredited Maine community college, college or university from an accredited non-Maine community college, college or university after December 31, 2012 but before January 1, 2016 and who earned no more than 30 credit hours of course work toward the degree at an accredited non-Maine community college, college or university is equal to 50% of the amount otherwise determined under this section in the case of an associate degree and equal to 75% of the amount otherwise determined under this section in the case of a bachelor's degree.

Notwithstanding subsection 2, paragraph C, the credit under this subsection is refundable to the extent the credit is based on loans included in the financial aid package acquired to obtain a bachelor's degree or associate degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, the credit under this subsection is refundable to the extent the credit is based on loans included in the financial aid package acquired to obtain an associate degree.

For purposes of this subsection, the proration factor is the amount derived by dividing the total number of academic credit hours earned for ~~a~~ an associate, bachelor's or associate graduate degree after December 31, 2007 by the total number of academic credit hours earned for the associate, bachelor's or associate graduate degree.

Sec. D-9. 36 MRSA §5275, as amended by PL 1979, c. 378, §44, is repealed.

Sec. D-10. 36 MRSA §5403, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. DD, §33, is amended to read:

4. Individual income tax standard deduction and itemized deduction phase-out. Beginning in 2017 and each year thereafter, by the dollar amount contained in the numerator of the fraction specified in section ~~5122, subsection 1, paragraph JJ, subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3)~~ 5124-B, subsection 3, paragraphs A, B and C and section 5125, subsection 6, paragraphs A, B and C, except that for the purposes of this subsection, notwithstanding section 5402, subsection 1-B, the "cost-of-living adjustment" is the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the preceding calendar year divided by the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2016;

Sec. D-11. Retroactivity. This Part applies retroactively to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016.

PART E

Sec. E-1. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶S, as corrected by RR 2003, c. 2, §117, is repealed.

Sec. E-2. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶V, as repealed and replaced by PL 2007, c. 437, §15, is repealed.

Sec. E-3. 36 MRSA §5216-B, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2015, c. 300, Pt. A, §41, is further amended to read:

2. Credit. An investor is entitled to a credit against the tax otherwise due under this Part equal to the amount of the tax credit certificate issued by the Finance Authority of Maine in accordance with Title 10, section 1100-T and as limited by this section. Except with respect to tax credit certificates issued under Title 10, section 1100-T, subsection 2-C, in the case of partnerships, limited liability companies, S corporations, nontaxable trusts and any other entities that are treated as flow-through entities for tax purposes under the Code, the individual partners, members, stockholders, beneficiaries or equity owners of such entities must be treated as the investors under this section and are allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due from them under this Part in proportion to their respective interests in those partnerships, limited liability companies, S corporations, trusts or other flow-through entities. Except as limited or authorized by subsection 3 or 4, 25% of the credit must be taken in the taxable year in which the investment is made and 25% per year must be taken in each of the next 3 taxable years. With respect to tax credit certificates issued under Title 10, section 1100-T, subsection 2-C, the credits are ~~fully~~ refundable and the investor shall file a return

requesting a refund for an investment for which it has received a tax credit certificate in the calendar year following the calendar year during which the investment was made.

Sec. E-4. 36 MRSA §5217-B, as amended by PL 1999, c. 521, Pt. C, §7 and affected by §9, is repealed.

Sec. E-5. 36 MRSA §5219-P, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. PPP, §§1 and 2, is repealed.

Sec. E-6. 36 MRSA §5219-BB, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. WW, §4, is amended to read:

6. Credit refundable. The credit allowed under this section is ~~fully~~ refundable.

Sec. E-7. 36 MRSA §5219-CC, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 693, §33 and affected by §37, is repealed.

Sec. E-8. 36 MRSA §5219-HH, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 548, §33 and affected by §35, is amended to read:

6. Credit refundable. The credit allowed under this section is ~~fully~~ refundable.

Sec. E-9. 36 MRSA §6754, sub-§2, ¶D, as amended by PL 2001, c. 669, §4, is repealed.

PART F

Sec. F-1. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§89, as amended by PL 2007, c. 693, §15 and affected by §37, is repealed.

Sec. F-2. 36 MRSA §2017, as reallocated by PL 2007, c. 466, Pt. A, §61 and amended by c. 693, §§17 to 21 and affected by c. 693, §37, is repealed.

PART G

Sec. G-1. 24-A MRSA §5055, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 556, Pt. B, §4, is amended to read:

3. Credit for employers. An employer providing long-term care benefits to its employees may qualify for the tax credit provided by Title 36, section ~~2525-A or 5217-B~~ 5217-C.

Sec. G-2. 35-A MRSA §3403, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 693, §5 and affected by §37, is amended to read:

3. Certification. The commission may certify a person as a community wind power generator if the commission determines that such a certification would support construction of a community wind power generation facility in this State and that the person will be the owner of that facility. ~~The person must demonstrate to the commission that the construction of the community wind power generation facility would not be likely to occur absent the availability of the benefits under Title 36, section 1760, subsection 89 and Title~~

~~36, sections 2017 and 5219-CC.~~ The commission may not certify a person as a community wind power generator with respect to a community wind power generation facility for which the person commenced the site permit application process prior to August 23, 2006.

PART H

Sec. H-1. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶M, as amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. R, §1, is further amended to read:

M. For each individual who is a primary recipient of pension benefits under an employee retirement plan, an amount that is the lesser of:

- (1) Six thousand dollars reduced by the total amount of the individual's social security benefits and railroad retirement benefits paid by the United States, but not less than \$0. The reduction does not apply to benefits paid under a military retirement plan; or
- (2) The aggregate of pension benefits under employee retirement plans included in the individual's federal adjusted gross income.

For purposes of this paragraph, the following terms have the following meanings. "Primary recipient" means the individual upon whose earnings the employee retirement plan benefits are based or the surviving spouse of that individual. "Pension benefits" means employee retirement benefits reported as pension or annuity income for federal income tax purposes. "Employee retirement plan" means a state, federal or military retirement plan or any other retirement benefit plan established and maintained by an employer for the benefit of its employees under the Code, Section 401(a), Section 403 or Section 457(b), except that distributions made pursuant to a Section 457(b) plan are not eligible for the deduction provided by this paragraph if they are made prior to age 55 and are not part of a series of substantially equal periodic payments made for the life of the primary recipient or the joint lives of the primary recipient and that recipient's designated beneficiary. "Employee retirement plan" does not include an individual retirement account under Section 408 of the Code, a Roth IRA under Section 408A of the Code, a rollover individual retirement account, a simplified employee pension under Section 408(k) of the Code or an ineligible deferred compensation plan under Section 457(f) of the Code. Pension benefits under an employee retirement plan do not include distributions that are subject to the tax imposed by the Code, Section 72(t). "Military retirement plan" means benefits received as a result of service in the active or reserve components of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard.

This paragraph does not apply to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014;

Sec. H-2. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶M-1, as amended by PL 2015, c. 382, §1, is further amended to read:

M-1. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2014 but before January 1, 2016, for each individual who is a primary recipient of retirement plan benefits under an employee retirement plan or an individual retirement account, an amount that is the lesser of the aggregate of retirement plan benefits under employee retirement plans or individual retirement accounts included in the individual's federal adjusted gross income and the pension deduction amount reduced by the total amount of the individual's social security benefits and railroad retirement benefits paid by the United States, but not less than \$0. The social security benefits and railroad retirement benefits reduction does not apply to benefits paid under a military retirement plan.

For purposes of this paragraph, the following terms have the following meanings.

(1) "Employee retirement plan" means a state, federal or military retirement plan or any other retirement benefit plan established and maintained by an employer for the benefit of its employees under the Code, Section 401(a), Section 403 or Section 457(b), except that distributions made pursuant to a Section 457(b) plan are not eligible for the deduction provided by this paragraph if they are made prior to age 55 and are not part of a series of substantially equal periodic payments made for the life of the primary recipient or the joint lives of the primary recipient and that recipient's designated beneficiary.

(2) "Individual retirement account" means an individual retirement account under Section 408 of the Code, a Roth IRA under Section 408A of the Code, a simplified employee pension under Section 408(k) of the Code or a simple retirement account for employees under Section 408(p) of the Code.

(3) "Military retirement plan" means retirement plan benefits received as a result of service in the active or reserve components of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard.

(4) "Pension deduction amount" means \$10,000.

(5) "Primary recipient" means the individual upon whose earnings or contributions the retirement plan benefits are based or the surviving spouse of that individual.

(6) "Retirement plan benefits" means employee retirement plan benefits, except pick-up contributions for which a subtraction is allowed under paragraph E, reported as pension or annuity income for federal income tax purposes and individual retirement account benefits reported as individual retirement account distributions for federal income tax purposes. "Retirement plan benefits" does not include distributions that are subject to the tax imposed by the Code, Section 72(t);

Sec. H-3. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶M-2, as amended by PL 2015, c. 382, §2 and c. 390, §8, is further amended to read:

M-2. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2016:

(1) For each individual who is a primary recipient of retirement plan benefits, the reduction is the sum of:

(a) Excluding military retirement plan benefits, an amount that is the lesser of:

(i) The aggregate of retirement plan benefits under employee retirement plans or individual retirement accounts included in the individual's federal adjusted gross income; and

(ii) The pension deduction amount reduced by the total amount of the individual's social security benefits and railroad retirement benefits paid by the United States, but not less than \$0; and

(b) An amount equal to the aggregate of retirement benefits under military retirement plans included in the individual's federal adjusted gross income; and

(2) For purposes of this paragraph, the following terms have the following meanings.

(a) "Employee retirement plan" means a state, federal or military retirement plan or any other retirement benefit plan established and maintained by an employer for the benefit of its employees under the Code, Section 401(a), Section 403 or Section 457(b), except that distributions made pursuant to a Section 457(b) plan are not eligible for the deduction provided by this paragraph if they are made prior to age 55 and are not part of a series of substantially equal periodic payments made for the life of the primary recipient or the joint lives of the primary recipient and that recipient's designated beneficiary.

(b) "Individual retirement account" means an individual retirement account under Section 408 of the Code, a Roth IRA under Section 408A of the Code, a simplified employee pension under Section 408(k) of the Code or a simple retirement account for employees under Section 408(p) of the Code.

(c) "Military retirement plan" means retirement plan benefits received as a result of service in the active or reserve components of the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard.

(d) "Pension deduction amount" means \$10,000.

(e) "Primary recipient" means the individual upon whose earnings or contributions the retirement plan benefits are based or the surviving spouse of that individual.

(f) "Retirement plan benefits" means employee retirement plan benefits, except pick-up contributions for which a subtraction is allowed under paragraph E, reported as pension or annuity income for federal income tax purposes and individual retirement account benefits reported as individual retirement account distributions for federal income tax purposes. "Retirement plan benefits" does not include distributions that are subject to the tax imposed by the Code, Section 72(t);

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 171

S.P. 554 - L.D. 1576

An Act To Enable Earlier Introduction of Career and Technical Education in Maine Schools

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8301-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2003, c. 545, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Affiliated unit. "Affiliated unit" means a school administrative unit that is affiliated with another school administrative unit that operates a center. An affiliated school administrative unit may have its secondary students and middle school level students

served by a center operated by a school administrative unit with which it is affiliated. An affiliated school administrative unit may also operate career and technical education satellite programs.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8301-A, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 545, §1, is amended to read:

2-A. Career and technical education. "Career and technical education" means a course or program of education designed to create or improve job-related skills that is part of a secondary school or middle school level curriculum and approved by the commissioner according to this chapter. A school administrative unit shall make career and technical education available to persons residing in the school administrative unit who are eligible to receive free public secondary and middle school level education.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §8301-A, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2003, c. 545, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Center. "Center" means an administrative entity established pursuant to this chapter that provides career and technical education to secondary students and middle school level students. Unless otherwise specifically provided for by this chapter, a center is governed, operated and administered by a single school administrative unit. A center shall make its programs available to serve secondary students and middle school level students from school administrative units with which it is affiliated. A center may include within its administrative structure career and technical education satellite programs operated by school administrative units with which it is affiliated.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §8301-A, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

3-A. Middle school level. "Middle school level" has the same meaning as in section 15672, subsection 20.

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §8301-A, sub-§§6 and 8, as amended by PL 2003, c. 545, §1, are further amended to read:

6. Region. "Region" means a quasi-municipal corporation established by the Legislature to provide career and technical education to secondary students and middle school level students that is comprised of all the school administrative units within the geographical boundaries set forth for each career and technical education region in section 8451. A region is governed by a cooperative board formed and operating in accordance with this chapter.

8. Satellite program. "Satellite program" means a program providing career and technical education to secondary students and middle school level students that is operated, under section 8403-A, by a school administrative unit affiliated with a center.