

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

This subsection is repealed July 1, 2018. Any ordinances adopted pursuant to this subsection are not authorized and are void after July 1, 2018.

Sec. 2. Authority to report out legislation.

The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services is authorized to report out legislation relating to municipal ordinances regarding the location of facilities where registered primary caregivers cultivate marijuana plants within 500 feet of a school to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature.

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

Effective June 23, 2017.

CHAPTER 272

S.P. 235 - L.D. 673

An Act To Restore the Tip Credit to Maine's Minimum Wage Law

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §664, sub-§2, as amended by IB 2015, c. 2, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Tip credit. An employer may consider tips as part of the wages of a service employee, but such a tip credit may not exceed 50% of the minimum hourly wage established in this section. ~~Starting except that from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017,~~ the minimum cash wage paid directly to a tipped service employee may not be less than \$5.00 per hour, ~~and the tip credit may not exceed the difference between the minimum cash wage paid directly to a tipped service employee and the minimum hourly wage established under subsection 1. Starting January 1, 2018, and on each January 1st thereafter, the minimum cash wage paid directly to a tipped service employee must be increased by an additional \$1.00 per hour until it reaches the same amount as the annually adjusted minimum hourly wage established under subsection 1, except that if the minimum cash wage paid directly to a tipped service employee is less than \$1.00 less than the annually adjusted minimum hourly wage, it must be increased by that lesser amount.~~ An employer who elects to use the tip credit, ~~until it is eliminated under this subsection,~~ must inform the affected employee in advance, ~~as provided for in this subsection,~~ and must be able to show that the employee receives at least the minimum hourly wage when direct wages and the tip credit are combined within the established 7-day workweek. Upon a satisfactory showing by the employee or the employee's representative that the actual

tips received were less than the tip credit, the employer shall increase the direct wages by the difference.

The tips received by a service employee become the property of the employee and may not be shared with the employer. Tips that are automatically included in the customer's bill or that are charged to a credit card must be treated like tips given to the service employee. A tip that is charged to a credit card must be paid by the employer to the employee by the next regular pay-day and may not be held while the employer is awaiting reimbursement from a credit card company. The employer may not deduct any amount from employee tips charged to a credit card, including, but not limited to, service fees assessed to the employer in connection with the credit card transaction.

An employer who elects to use the tip credit must inform the affected employee in advance, either orally or in writing, of the following information:

A. The amount of the direct wage to be paid by the employer to the tipped employee;

B. The amount of tips to be credited as wages toward the minimum wage;

C. That the amount of tips to be credited as wages may not exceed the value of the tips actually received by the employee;

D. That all tips received by the affected employee must be retained by the employee, except for a valid tip pooling arrangement limited to employees who customarily and regularly receive tips in accordance with subsection 2-A;

E. That the tip credit may not apply to any employee who has not been informed by the employer of the provisions for a tip credit; and

F. If the employer uses a tip pooling arrangement, any required tip pool contribution amount from the employee.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 273

S.P. 401 - L.D. 1180

An Act To Provide a Definition of "Primary Residence" for Purposes of Property Tax Abatements Based on Hardship or Poverty

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §841, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. A, §24, is amended to read:

2. Hardship or poverty. The municipal officers, or the State Tax Assessor for the unorganized territory, within 3 years from commitment, may, on their own knowledge or on written application, make such abatements as they believe reasonable on the real and personal taxes on the primary residence of any person who, by reason of hardship or poverty, is in their judgment unable to contribute to the public charges. The municipal officers, or the State Tax Assessor for the unorganized territory, may extend the 3-year period within which they may make abatements under this subsection.

As used in this subsection, "primary residence" means the home, appurtenant structures necessary to support the home and acreage sufficient to satisfy the minimum lot size as required by the municipality's land use or building permit ordinance or regulations or, in the absence of any municipal minimum lot size requirement, as required by Title 12, section 4807-A.

Municipal officers or the State Tax Assessor for the unorganized territory shall:

- A. Provide that any person indicating an inability to pay all or part of taxes that have been assessed because of hardship or poverty be informed of the right to make application under this subsection;
- B. Assist individuals in making application for abatement;
- C. Make available application forms for requesting an abatement based on hardship or poverty and provide that those forms contain notice that a written decision will be made within 30 days of the date of application;
- D. Provide that persons are given the opportunity to apply for an abatement during normal business hours;
- E. Provide that all applications, information submitted in support of the application, files and communications relating to an application for abatement and the determination on the application for abatement are confidential. Hearings and proceedings held pursuant to this subsection must be in executive session;
- F. Provide to any person applying for abatement under this subsection, notice in writing of their decision within 30 days of application; and
- G. Provide that any decision made under this subsection include the specific reason or reasons for the decision and inform the applicant of the right to appeal and the procedure for requesting an appeal.

~~For the purpose of this subsection, the municipal officers may set off or otherwise treat as available benefits provided to an applicant under chapter 907 when de-~~

~~termining if the applicant is able to contribute to the public charges.~~

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 274

S.P. 541 - L.D. 1546

An Act To Clarify the Language Defining Schedule W Drugs and To Add Drugs to the List of Schedule W Drugs

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1101, sub-§24, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 346, §3, is amended to read:

24. "Fentanyl powder" means any compound, mixture or preparation, in granular or powder form, containing fentanyl or any derivative of fentanyl listed in section 1102, subsection 1, paragraph I in any quantity.

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §1102, sub-§1, ¶I, as amended by PL 2015, c. 492, §1, is further amended to read:

I. Unless listed or described in another schedule, any compound, mixture or preparation containing narcotic drugs in any quantity, including, but not limited to, the following narcotic drugs or their salts, isomers or salts of isomers: heroin (diacetylmorphine); methadone; methadone hydrochloride; levo-alpha-acetyl-methadol, or LAAM; pethidine; opium; morphine; oxycodone; hydrocodone; hydromorphone; buprenorphine; U-47700; W-18; W-15; AH-7921; carfentanil; sufentanil; fentanyl powder; and any derivative of fentanyl powder by any substitution on or replacement of the phenethyl group, any substitution on the piperidine ring, any substitution on or replacement of the propanamide group, any substitution on the phenyl group or any combination thereof, including, but not limited to, despropionyl fentanyl, furanylfentanyl, fluorofentanyl, 4-fluoroisobutyryl fentanyl, acetylfentanyl and any methylfentanyl derivatives and opium;

See title page for effective date.
