

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

(6) To provide a special housing allowance for TANF families whose shelter expenses for rent, mortgage or similar payments, homeowners insurance and property taxes equal or exceed 75% of their monthly income. The special housing allowance is limited to \$200 per month for each family. For purposes of this subparagraph, "monthly income" means the total of the TANF monthly benefit and all income countable under the TANF program, plus child support received by the family, excluding the \$50 pass-through payment;

(7) In determining benefit levels for TANF recipients who have earnings from employment, the department shall disregard from monthly earnings the following:

- (a) One hundred and eight dollars;
- (b) Fifty percent of the remaining earnings that are less than the federal poverty level; and
- (c) All actual child care costs necessary for work, except that the department may limit the child care disregard to \$175 per month per child or \$200 per month per child under 2 years of age or with special needs;

(7-A) In determining eligibility and benefit levels, the department may apply a gross income test only to applicants and not to recipients;

(7-B) In addition to the earned income disregards provided in subparagraph (7), a TANF recipient who enters employment must receive a one-time employment incentive payment of \$400 if that TANF recipient retains employment for the subsequent 4 months after entering employment, to be paid at the end of that 4-month period. This subparagraph is repealed December 31, 2018;

(8) In cases when the TANF recipient has no child care cost, the monthly TANF benefit is the maximum payment level or the difference between the countable earnings and the standard of need established by rule adopted by the department, whichever is lower;

(9) In cases when the TANF recipient has child care costs, the department shall determine a total benefit package, including TANF cash assistance, determined in accordance with subparagraph (7) and additional child care assistance, as provided by rule, necessary to cover the TANF recipient's actual child care costs up to the maximum amount specified in section 3782-A, subsection 5.

The benefit amount must be paid as provided in this subparagraph.

(a) Before the first month in which child care assistance is available to an ASPIRE-TANF recipient under this paragraph and periodically thereafter, the department shall notify the recipient of the total benefit package and the following options of the recipient: to receive the total benefit package directly; or to have the department pay the recipient's child care assistance directly to the designated child care provider for the recipient and pay the balance of the total benefit package to the recipient.

(b) If an ASPIRE-TANF recipient notifies the department that the recipient chooses to receive the child care assistance directly, the department shall pay the total benefit package to the recipient.

(c) If an ASPIRE-TANF recipient does not respond or notifies the department of the choice to have the child care assistance paid directly to the child care provider from the total benefit package, the department shall pay the child care assistance directly to the designated child care provider for the recipient. The department shall pay the balance of the total benefit package to the recipient;

(10) Child care assistance under this paragraph must be paid by the department in a prompt manner that permits an ASPIRE-TANF recipient to access child care necessary for work; and

(11) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375 to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subparagraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

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

Effective July 20, 2017.

CHAPTER 291

H.P. 810 - L.D. 1147

An Act To Modernize the Renewable Portfolio Standard

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§3-A, ¶A, as corrected by RR 2007, c. 2, §20, is amended to read:

A. Except as provided in paragraph B, beginning January 1, 2008, as a condition of licensing pursuant to section 3203, each competitive electricity provider in this State must demonstrate in a manner satisfactory to the commission that the percentage of its portfolio of supply sources for retail electricity sales in this State accounted for by new renewable capacity resources is as follows:

- (1) One percent for the period from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008;
- (2) Two percent for the period from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009;
- (3) Three percent for the period from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010;
- (4) Four percent for the period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011;
- (5) Five percent for the period from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012;
- (6) Six percent for the period from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013;
- (7) Seven percent for the period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014;
- (8) Eight percent for the period from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015;
- (9) Nine percent for the period from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016; and
- (10) Ten percent for the period from January 1, 2017 to December 31, ~~2017~~ 2022.

New renewable capacity resources used to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph may not be used to satisfy the requirements of subsection 3.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 292

H.P. 1036 - L.D. 1512

An Act To Protect the Health and Safety of First Responders

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §832-A is enacted to read:

§832-A. Emergency blood-borne pathogen testing

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Aggressive blood-borne pathogen" means a blood-borne pathogen whose pathology is such that a person who has been exposed to the pathogen must receive medical treatment to have a chance to effectively neutralize the pathogen.

B. "Body fluids" means body fluids that are excreted or secreted from the body, including, but not limited to, urine, feces, blood or saliva.

C. "Emergency medical care provider" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 752-C, subsection 2.

D. "Firefighter" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 752-E, subsection 2.

E. "First responder" means a law enforcement officer, firefighter or emergency medical care provider.

F. "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 17.

2. Testing; expedited hearing. When a first responder has been exposed to a person's body fluids in the course of the first responder's official duties, the first responder or the first responder's designee may ask the person whose body fluids were the source of exposure to the first responder to submit to a blood test. If the person refuses, the first responder may petition the court and, if there is reasonable cause to suspect that the person's body fluids might contain an aggressive blood-borne pathogen, the court may order that a hearing be held in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 832, except that:

A. Upon receipt by the District Court of the petition, the court shall schedule a hearing to be held within 72 hours of the filing of the petition;

B. Any appeal of the District Court's decision must be filed no later than 24 hours following the court's decision; and

C. Upon receipt by the Superior Court of an appeal under paragraph B, the court shall schedule a hearing to be held within 72 hours.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 293

H.P. 1135 - L.D. 1644

An Act To Fund the Agreement with Executive Branch Employees

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