

# 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.**

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2017**

puter science as a basic skill and as a potential career path. The council shall invite members to the task force and appoint the task force chair, who must be a person whose professional responsibilities include the advancement of computer science professional development and education in the State and who is aligned with the State's business community in carrying out those responsibilities; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved:** That the duties of the task force must include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. The task force shall recommend a framework for an effective kindergarten to grade 12 computer science education system in the State and outline a strategy to ensure students have access to this education system. The task force shall:

A. Identify the key elements of computer science education that provide mathematics or science competencies needed to attain a proficiency-based diploma;

B. Identify models of age-appropriate computer science curricula that provide students in kindergarten to grade 12 basic knowledge of and familiarity with computer science concepts and applications and opportunities to explore how computer science may serve their educational needs and career aspirations; and

C. Develop a sustainable professional development strategy to deliver kindergarten to grade 12 computer science education and to ensure that all students have access to computer science education.

2. In determining the strategy described in subsection 1, the task force shall investigate best practices for and barriers to implementation of the strategy. The task force shall:

A. Identify and inventory computer science education activities currently underway in the State and in other states, including:

(1) Classroom initiatives integrating computer science education into existing curricular opportunities;

(2) Full access to courses that provide an opportunity for credit from an institution of higher learning; and

(3) Models of education that effectively use offsite resources and online learning opportunities to augment the resources available on site; and

B. Identify and inventory computer science professional development activities currently underway in the State and highlight best practices for and barriers encountered in delivering computer

science professional development to teachers across the State; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Coordination with Department of Education. Resolved:** That the task force shall coordinate with the Department of Education to provide information on identified areas of computer science education in the State and to enable the department to undertake rulemaking related to improving access to computer science education in the State. The work of the task force must inform and complement the work of the department, and nothing in the duties of the task force may be construed to mean that the department may not undertake initiatives or rulemaking related to computer science education separate from the work of the task force; and be it further

**Sec. 4. Report; recommendations. Resolved:** That the task force shall report its findings of best practices for computer science education and a recommended strategy to develop and implement a high-quality computer science education curriculum for all students to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 15, 2018. The task force is authorized to make recommendations, including proposed legislation and rules, in its report. The joint standing committee may report out a bill based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Resources. Resolved:** That the council may provide funding and in-kind donations received from public or private sources to fund the costs of the task force and enable the task force to accomplish its duties. Any unused funds at the termination of the task force may be retained by the council.

See title page for effective date.

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## CHAPTER 22

### S.P. 590 - L.D. 1640

#### **Resolve, To Allow the Issuance of Open Burn Permits through Private Online Services**

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

**Whereas,** under current law, anyone performing out-of-door burning, including burning for agricultural purposes and of brush, leaves, wood waste and grass fields, is required to obtain a permit from the town forest fire warden or from the forest ranger having jurisdiction over the location where the fire is to be set; and

**Whereas**, until recently, as a convenience to the residents of the State, burn permits were available online and for free through a 3rd-party provider; and

**Whereas**, due to a change in interpretation of policy by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, residents of the State are no longer able to get free online burn permits; and

**Whereas**, the burn permits issued online by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry carry a cost of \$7 per permit; and

**Whereas**, in order to restore to the residents of the State the convenience of obtaining burn permits online and for no charge, it is necessary that this legislation take effect as soon as possible; 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. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry to allow municipalities to purchase burn permit software. Resolved:** That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry shall allow municipalities to purchase and use burn permit software sold from a private party to issue burn permits pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 9325 if all statutory requirements of issuing burn permits are met by the software.

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

Effective July 4, 2017.

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## CHAPTER 23

### H.P. 1121 - L.D. 1626

#### Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Assume Ownership of the Forest City Project

**Sec. 1. Forest City Project. Resolved:** That, if the provisions of sections 2 and 3 are met, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is authorized to assume ownership from Woodland Pulp LLC of that portion of a dam and water storage project known as the Forest City Project, together with associated flowage rights, easements and related facilities, located on the East Branch of the St. Croix River in Washington County and Aroostook County and referred to in this resolve as "the facility." The authorization under this

section is limited to that portion of the Forest City Project that is located within the territorial limits of the United States; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission contingency. Resolved:** That the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may not assume ownership of the facility pursuant to section 1 unless the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues a written determination that no license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to own or operate the facility will be required if the State owns the facility; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Operation and maintenance agreement contingency. Resolved:** That the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may not assume ownership of the facility pursuant to section 1 unless the State and Woodland Pulp LLC execute an agreement that provides that Woodland Pulp LLC and its successors will operate and maintain the facility at the direction of the State and in accordance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations and prudent industry practice, except to the extent that Woodland Pulp LLC or its successors are prevented from doing so by an unforeseen extraordinary event. The agreement must ensure that Woodland Pulp LLC and its successors operate and maintain the facility in accordance with the agreement required under this section at no cost to the State for a period of 15 years from the date the State acquires the facility; and be it further

**Sec. 4. Project management. Resolved:** That the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall oversee the management of the facility if the facility is acquired pursuant to this resolve.

See title page for effective date.

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## CHAPTER 24

### H.P. 853 - L.D. 1231

#### Resolve, To Assess the Need for Mental Health Care Services for Veterans in Maine and To Establish a Pilot Program To Provide Case Management Services to Veterans for Mental Health Care

**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 legislation establishes a pilot program to provide case management services to provide mental health treatment to veterans; and