

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 2, 2020 to March 30, 2021

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 28, 2021 to July 19, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2021

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 18, 2021

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

Augusta, Maine
2021

A fee for administrative costs, which must be at a rate set by rule by the board but may not exceed 1% of the loan, must be charged on a loan made for a project the total cost of which exceeds \$50,000. This fee must be deposited in the fund.

Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §1023-N, first ¶, as amended by PL 2013, c. 403, §11, is further amended to read:

There is created a fund known as the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund." The fund must be deposited with and maintained by the authority to be used solely for investment in the Maine potato industry. The fund must be administered by the Maine Potato Board, established in Title 36, section 4603 and referred to in this section as "the board," and the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund Committee, established in Title 5, section 12004-H, subsection 10-A. All money received by the authority from any source for the development and implementation of improved storage, packing and marketing and programs and activities that improve the economic viability of the potato industry must be credited to the fund. Any money credited to the fund from the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State for agricultural development may be used only for the purposes of state loans as prescribed by Title 7, section 974-A to provide assistance to potato farmers for the design, construction, improvement, support and operation of storage, packing and marketing facilities; for programs and activities that improve the economic viability of the potato industry; and to pay the administrative costs of processing loan applications and servicing and administering the fund and loans and grants made therein, to the extent that the costs exceed the fee for administrative costs established by Title 7, section 974-A, subsection 2-A. At the discretion of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the authority shall make payments directly to the board, which shall use those payments to implement the requirements of this section. During any period that the commissioner has authorized direct payments from the authority to the board, the authority shall make written annual reports to the commissioner and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters detailing the amounts of payments to the board and the dates payments were made and detailing the expenditure of those payments. Repayment of the loans and interest on the loans must be credited to the fund to be available for making additional state loans for the same purposes, except that any interest earned on the cash balance of the fund may be used for the grants authorized by Title 7, section 975-A. In order to provide additional amounts for loans, the commissioner, upon consultation with the board, may take such actions and enter into such agreements as may be necessary to sell or assign up to \$2,000,000 in the aggregate principal amount of loans and undivided interests in a pool of loans and assign or pledge any mortgage or other security to the authority, under the terms and conditions the

commissioner considers advisable upon consultation with the board. The assignment and related transactions may not result in indebtedness of the State. The proceeds of the sale or assignment must be credited to the fund and used for the purposes authorized in this section.

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

Effective April 7, 2021.

CHAPTER 32

H.P. 10 - L.D. 44

An Act To Require the Department of Education To Report Annually on Summer Educational Programs

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8803 is enacted to read:

§8803. Report

The department shall report by November 15, 2021 and annually thereafter to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs on school administrative unit summer educational programs, including but not limited to summer school and extended school year programs. The report must include the number of school administrative units administering such programs, the nature of the programs, the number of participants in the programs, any partnerships with community-based organizations to provide the programs and the sources of funding for the programs. The report must also include recommendations, and any suggested legislation, on improving summer educational programs and identification of any additional funding needed to ensure the success of summer educational programs.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 33

H.P. 31 - L.D. 65

An Act To Invest in the Stewardship and Management of Properties Acquired with the Proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund or the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §6203, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2009, c. 178, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

3. Fund proceeds. The proceeds of the Land for Maine's Future Fund may be applied and expended to:

A. Acquire property or an interest in property that is determined by the board to be of state significance under the guidelines of this chapter;

B. When interest in land is acquired with proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund, fund minor capital improvements on such lands and on adjoining lands in the same ownership or under the same management to improve accessibility, as long as these improvements do not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property; ~~and~~

C. When interest in farmland is acquired with proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund, fund the development of a business plan and capital improvements to provide for the land's continuing use as a working farm, as long as these improvements do not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property. Capital improvements under this paragraph may also be made on adjoining farmland in the same ownership or under the same management; ~~and~~

D. When land or interest in land is acquired with proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund, fund minor capital investments in the stewardship and management of that land. Stewardship and management investments under this paragraph must be held in a dedicated stewardship endowment and identified for use on the funded property. Stewardship and management investments may not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §6203-A, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 728, §5, is amended to read:

3. Fund proceeds. The proceeds of the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund may be applied and expended to:

A. Acquire property or interests in property abutting fresh or coastal waters when public access to those waters does not exist or when the board determines that existing points of public access are not sufficient; ~~and~~

B. Provide minor capital improvements on lands acquired by proceeds from the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund to provide public access or improve accessibility, as long as these improvements do not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property; ~~and~~

C. When land or interest in land is acquired with proceeds from the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund, fund minor capital investments in the stewardship and management of that land. Stewardship

and management investments under this paragraph must be held in a dedicated stewardship endowment and identified for use on the funded property. Stewardship and management investments may not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 34

H.P. 56 - L.D. 90

An Act To Amend the Removal Process Applicable to the Position of State Supervisor of the Forest Protection Unit of the Bureau of Forestry

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8901, sub-§1, ¶B is enacted to read:

B. The state supervisor of the forest protection unit of the Bureau of Forestry, as Chief Forest Ranger, must be appointed from among the forest rangers of the department and must be qualified by training and experience in wildfire protection and law enforcement. In the event that the Chief Forest Ranger is not reappointed, the Chief Forest Ranger has the right to be restored to the position from which the Chief Forest Ranger was promoted or to a position equivalent in salary grade, without impairment of personnel status or the loss of seniority, retirement or other rights to which uninterrupted service in the previous position would have entitled the former Chief Forest Ranger. If service as Chief Forest Ranger is terminated for cause, the right to be restored to that previous or an equivalent position must be determined by the State Civil Service Appeals Board.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 35

H.P. 64 - L.D. 98

An Act To Clarify Maine's Statutes Related to the Licensing of Child Care Providers

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1319-C, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2005, c. 530, §3, is further amended to read: