

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
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TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2021

**CHAPTER 120
H.P. 653 - L.D. 897**

**An Act To Allow
Municipalities To Set Below-
market Interest Rates for
Senior Citizen Property Tax
Deferral Programs**

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §6271, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2017, c. 170, Pt. B, §10, is further 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 percentage points above the otherwise applicable rate for delinquent taxes unless the municipality adopts a lower interest rate. 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.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 121
H.P. 699 - L.D. 943**

**An Act To Improve Turkey
Tagging**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11752, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §181 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

2. Tagging. ~~Prior~~ Except as provided in section 12307, prior to presenting a wild turkey for registration,

a person may not possess or leave in the field or forest a wild turkey killed by that person unless the wild turkey has securely attached to it a plainly visible tag that conforms to the requirements established under this section.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12302-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §228 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

1. Requirement. A Except as provided in section 12307, a person who kills a bear, deer, moose or wild turkey shall:

- A. Remain with that animal until it is registered, except as provided in section 12303-A;
- B. Present that animal for registration in that person's name at the first open registration station for that animal on the route taken by that person; and
- C. Leave the registration seal attached to the animal in accordance with section 12301-A until that animal is processed and packaged for consumption.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12303-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §230 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

1. Time limits. Except as provided in subsection 1-A and in section 12307, a person may not keep any of the following unregistered wild animals at home or any place of storage for more than 18 hours:

- A. Bear;
- B. Deer;
- C. Moose; or
- D. Wild turkey.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §12304-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §232 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

1. Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 2 and in section 12307, a person must present the following wild animals for registration in their entirety:

- A. Bear;
- B. Deer;
- C. Moose; or
- D. Wild turkey.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §12306, sub-§1, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §234 and affected by §422, is further amended to read:

1. Prohibition. A Except as provided in section 12307, a person may not possess any of the following animals if that animal has not been legally registered as provided in this chapter, unless that animal is possessed in accordance with chapter 921:

- A. Bear;

- B. Deer;
- C. Moose; or
- D. Wild turkey.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §12307 is enacted to read:

§12307. Exception for fall turkey hunting

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, a person who kills a wild turkey during any fall open season on hunting wild turkey established by rule by the commissioner under section 11701 is not required to register or attach a tag to that turkey.

Sec. 7. Evaluation of electronic tagging. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall determine the direct costs of and timeline required for implementing an electronic tagging system for wild turkey. The department shall also evaluate whether and how such a system could be effectively implemented and any related costs and benefits of such a system. The department shall report the department's findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 3, 2022 and the committee may report out a bill related to turkey tagging to the Second Regular Session or any special session of the 130th Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 122

H.P. 703 - L.D. 947

An Act To Address the Long-term Impact of Economic Abuse by a Spouse

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

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 634, §3, is amended to read:

C. Reimbursement support may be awarded to achieve an equitable result in the overall dissolution of the parties' financial relationship in response to exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Economic misconduct by a spouse; ~~and~~
- (2) Substantial contributions a spouse made towards the educational or occupational advancement of the other spouse during the marriage; ~~and~~
- (3) Economic abuse by a spouse. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "economic abuse" has the same meaning as in section 4002, subsection 3-B.

Reimbursement support may be awarded only if the court determines that the parties' financial circumstances do not permit the court to fully address equitable considerations through its distributive order pursuant to section 953.

Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§5, ¶M-1 is enacted to read:

M-1. Economic abuse by a spouse. For the purposes of this paragraph, "economic abuse" has the same meaning as in section 4002, subsection 3-B;

Sec. 3. 19-A MRSA §953, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is amended to read:

1. Disposition. In a proceeding for a divorce, for legal separation or for disposition of property following dissolution of the marriage by a court that lacked personal jurisdiction over the absent spouse or lacked jurisdiction to dispose of the property, the court shall set apart to each spouse the spouse's property and shall divide the marital property in proportions the court considers just after considering all relevant factors, including:

- A. The contribution of each spouse to the acquisition of the marital property, including the contribution of a spouse as homemaker;
- B. The value of the property set apart to each spouse; ~~and~~
- C. The economic circumstances of each spouse at the time the division of property is to become effective, including the desirability of awarding the family home or the right to live in the home for reasonable periods to the spouse having custody of the children; ~~and~~

D. Economic abuse by a spouse. For the purposes of this paragraph, "economic abuse" has the same meaning as in section 4002, subsection 3-B.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 123

S.P. 323 - L.D. 1028

An Act To Ease Business Expansion by Increasing the Number and Applicability of Permit Exemptions under the Site Location of Development Laws

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §488, sub-§7, as amended by PL 1993, c. 383, §26 and affected by §42, is further amended to read: