

# 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.**

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2021**

of financial assistance to support the use of healthy soils best practices by farmers and farmland owners;

B. Investigate opportunities for market-based levers and promotional activities that incentivize healthy soils best practices;

C. Subject to availability of funding, support and make available incentives, such as technical assistance, financial assistance and research support, to implement healthy soils best practices;

D. Design the program to equitably distribute incentives to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers as defined by 7 United States Code, Section 2279(a); and

E. Determine how the program may be implemented to enhance other state and federal programs that provide financial assistance to farmers implementing healthy soils best practices.

**§353. Maine Healthy Soils Fund**

The Maine Healthy Soils Fund is established as a nonlapsing separate account to be administered by the commissioner. Income from gifts, grants, fees and other sources may be deposited into the fund. All money in the fund and earnings on that money must be used for the purposes of this chapter.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Maine Healthy Soils Fund N358**

Initiative: Provides an allocation to accept grants, bequests, gifts or contributions from any source, public or private, to support the administration of the healthy soils program.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$500	\$500
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 144**

**H.P. 378 - L.D. 515**

**An Act To Create New Models of Maine Manufacturing Employment and Education**

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §11, sub-§3, ¶D,** as enacted by PL 2011, c. 346, §2, is amended to read:

D. Devise strategies for promoting career and technical education alignment and supporting early career planning and transition supports from high school to college and to the workforce; ~~and~~

**Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §11, sub-§3, ¶E,** as enacted by PL 2011, c. 346, §2, is amended to read:

E. Propose methods for integrating out-of-school programs focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics with school-based programs, with the goal of inspiring more students to concentrate in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; ~~and~~

**Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §11, sub-§3, ¶F** is enacted to read:

F. Coordinate the development of higher education programs and public-private partnerships to enhance higher education and employment opportunities in the State in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

**Sec. 4. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics program development for education and employment.** The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 11, referred to in this section as "the council," shall engage with the University of Maine System under Title 20-A, chapter 411, the Maine Community College System under Title 20-A, chapter 431, adult education programs under Title 20-A, chapter 315, the Finance Authority of Maine under Title 10, section 964, the Loring Development Authority of Maine under Title 5, section 13080 and private sector stakeholders to develop proposals for the following programs and initiatives to promote new models of manufacturing education and employment in the State:

1. A 5-year dual degree program through the University of Maine System in green technology and entrepreneurship, along with a scholarship program for students in the program and seed funding for business development in green manufacturing;
2. A 5-year dual degree program in educational communication and digital technology based within the University of Maine System to develop and prepare educators for remote communication, learning and training platforms;
3. A dual degree program in accounting and green technology based within the University of Maine System;
4. A platform for occupational licensing in educational communication and digital technology that addresses the needs of new residents of the State, including but not limited to immigrants and refugees;

5. An associate degree program, supported by public-private funding, to train students in green engineering and technology based within the Maine Community College System;

6. An apprenticeship program in green technology and employment, including but not limited to apprenticeships in solar farm development and operation;

7. Financing options through the Finance Authority of Maine or other appropriate entities for graduates of educational and apprenticeship programs described in this section to develop new businesses;

8. A solar steam train facility based at the Loring Development Authority of Maine. The proposal may include, but is not limited to, tax incentives, financing from the Finance Authority of Maine or other appropriate entities, formation of a committee to oversee development and outreach to create a public-private partnership and shared ownership between the State and employees of the facility; and

9. A committee to examine the transition to electric transportation infrastructure and development of manufacturing opportunities to support that transition.

For the purposes of this section, "green" means relating to or concerned with reducing negative short-term and long-term effects on the environment.

With the approval of 2/3 of the council and notwithstanding Title 20-A, section 11, subsection 10, the council may seek and receive private funds as needed to further its activities.

The council shall submit a report including the proposals required by this section to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. The report must be submitted no later than December 1, 2021. After receipt of the report required by this section, a joint standing committee may report out a bill based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

**Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council Z175**

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures in the event private funds are received to support the activities of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council related to the development of higher education programs and public-private partnerships to enhance higher education and employment opportunities in the State in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
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All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$500	\$500
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 145**

**S.P. 234 - L.D. 596**

**An Act To Improve the Law Regarding Abandoned Roads**

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

**Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §3028**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 464, §7, is repealed.

**Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §3028-A** is enacted to read:

**§3028-A. Abandonment of town ways**

Beginning October 1, 2021, a town way, or portion thereof, may not be declared discontinued by abandonment unless the municipality or county where the proposed abandoned town way is situated complies with the requirements of this section. A municipality or its officials or a county or its officials are not liable for nonperformance of a legal duty with respect to a town way declared discontinued by abandonment in accordance with this section.

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

A. "Affected property" means real property that abuts the town way to be declared discontinued by abandonment and real property for which the town way is the only access route.

B. "Best practicable notice" means, at minimum, the mailing of notice by the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, first class, to affected property owners whose addresses appear in the assessment records of the municipality or county.

**2. Declaration of abandonment.** Municipal officers or county commissioners may vote to declare a town way discontinued by abandonment if:

A. For a period of 30 or more consecutive years, the town way was not kept passable for the use of motor vehicles at the expense of the municipality or county. Isolated acts of maintenance by the municipality or county without other evidence that shows a clear intent by the municipality or county to consider or use the town way as if it were a public way as defined in section 1903, subsection 11 does not negate evidence that the town way was not kept passable for the use of motor vehicles; and