

# 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**

the adoption of rules and the establishment of reasonable fees.

Rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection or by the Maine Land Use Planning Commission pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**Sec. 2. Application.** This Act applies to a solar energy development on which construction begins on or after October 1, 2021 and to any other solar energy development that undergoes a transfer of ownership on or after October 1, 2021.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 152**

**S.P. 184 - L.D. 815**

**An Act To Support School Decarbonization**

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

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10123**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 347, §2, is further amended to read:

**§10123. School energy savings decarbonization program**

To the extent funds are available, the trust shall develop a program to provide ~~energy savings improvements to~~ technical and financial support to help kindergarten to grade 12 schools, including charter schools and private schools, to become carbon neutral. Under this program, the trust may:

**1. Energy audits Professional services.** ~~Provide incentives and technical support for an energy audit of~~ Facilitate access to professional services, including but not limited to energy audits, technical support, financing and legal services, to assist in the planning, design or procurement of construction projects, solar power purchases or equipment that will help a school facility to become carbon neutral. The trust may provide financial incentives for these services;

**2. Energy measures.** Provide financial assistance for ~~cost-effective energy measures identified in an energy audit as likely to achieve total savings within 10 years that are greater than the total costs of the measures or the plans, designs or procurements of a school facility.~~ Eligibility for energy measures qualifying for financial assistance under this section must be determined by the trust; and

**3. School payments.** Accept payments from schools, including, but not limited to, payments equal to or less than the value on monthly energy bills of the energy savings as a result of the energy measures. These payments may include costs to develop and oversee the project, administer the program and service loans.

The trust, in collaboration with the Department of Education, shall identify and provide incentives for cost-effective electric and natural gas conservation projects in school construction projects designated by the State Board of Education for funding pursuant to rules adopted under Title 20-A, section 15905.

**Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10127**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 347, §3 and reallocated by RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §55, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 153**

**H.P. 650 - L.D. 894**

**An Act To Increase Government Accountability by Removing the Restriction on the Dissemination of Information Regarding Investigations**

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

**Sec. 1. 16 MRSA §807**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 507, §8, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 154**

**H.P. 746 - L.D. 1008**

**An Act To Require Joint Use Entities To Establish Permanent Liaisons with All County Emergency Management Agencies**

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

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §717** is enacted to read:

**§717. Joint use entity liaisons**

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

A. "Disaster" has the same meaning as in Title 37-B, section 703, subsection 2.

B. "Facilities" has the same meaning as in section 2502, subsection 3.

C. "Joint use entity" has the same meaning as in section 711, subsection 7, paragraph B.

**2. Joint use entity; liaison designation.** A joint use entity shall designate, in each county where the joint

use entity has facilities, a permanent liaison with the applicable county emergency management agency to be responsible for assisting the agency with the coordination of actions during a disaster or civil emergency and shall communicate to the agency the contact information for the liaison. A joint use entity is responsible for ensuring that a permanent liaison designated under this subsection responds immediately to any contact or request for assistance during a disaster or civil emergency from the county emergency management agency to which the liaison is designated.

**3. County emergency management agency; information sharing.** A county emergency management agency that receives a communication from a joint use entity designating a permanent liaison pursuant to subsection 2 shall communicate to that joint use entity the contact information for the employee or employees of the county emergency management agency responsible for coordinating the actions of the county emergency management agency during a disaster or civil emergency.

**Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §783, 2nd ¶,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 146, §14, is further amended to read:

Each municipal, county and regional emergency management agency, as part of the development of a disaster emergency plan for the area subject to its jurisdiction, shall consult as it considers appropriate with institutions, organizations and businesses within its jurisdiction to ensure that the disaster plans developed by the municipality or agency and those institutions, organizations and businesses are compatible. Institutions, organizations and businesses with which the municipality or agency may consult include, but are not limited to, hospitals, schools, health care facilities, group homes, joint use entities as defined in Title 35-A, section 711, subsection 7, paragraph B and day care centers.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 155**

**H.P. 748 - L.D. 1010**

**An Act To Establish the Maine Service Fellows Program**

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7503, sub-§13,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 54, §1, is amended to read:

**13. Fund raising.** Carry out fund-raising efforts to supplement federal funding and to meet all federal matching requirements; ~~and~~

**Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §7503, sub-§13-A** is enacted to read:

**13-A. Maine Service Fellows Program.** Develop and administer the Maine Service Fellows Program under section 7506; and

**Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §7506** is enacted to read:

**§7506. Maine Service Fellows Program**

The Maine Service Fellows Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the commission. Individuals who participate in the program are referred to in this section as "program fellows." The commission shall administer the program in accordance with this section.

**1. Program purposes.** The commission shall establish the program to:

A. Increase the opportunities for individuals to devote a year of service to communities in the State;

B. Attract to and retain in the State motivated adults who have completed a college degree within the prior 5 years to serve in positions where they can apply skills and abilities to projects for the benefit of citizens of the State;

C. Provide rural and underserved communities in the State a resource to address critical health and human, public safety, education and environmental needs; and

D. Strengthen civic engagement of both the program fellows and community residents through solutions based in whole or in part in volunteer service.

**2. Program design.** The program must be designed to coordinate with appropriate organizations in the served communities. Program fellows must be required to commit up to 20% of their time in the program to developing regional networks of volunteer programs whose common goals can result in mutual benefits. An entity may submit a proposal to sponsor a program fellow based on guidelines established under this subsection. Services provided by a program fellow may include but are not limited to services to address home evictions, to support workforce development, to mitigate and prevent substance use disorder and to promote mental health. The commission may identify other priority needs of communities to be addressed by the program and may make those services available to eligible communities. During the first 3 years of operation of the program, the commission shall ensure that program fellows focus on helping communities recover from the effects of coronavirus disease 2019, also known as COVID-19, and the related pandemic, while also addressing long-term issues that communities face. The commission shall establish guidelines for the program that include but are not limited to: