

# 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

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Augusta, Maine 2021

#### FIRST SPECIAL SESSION - 2021

the delivery of services by ambulance service providers in this State, including issues related to the medical necessity and reasonableness of ambulance services. The stakeholder group shall consider and develop financial and cost reporting standards and other metrics related to the delivery and quality of ambulance services to measure and evaluate ambulance services in this State. The Emergency Medical Services' Board shall submit a report on the results of its review, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters no later than February 1, 2023. The joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

#### CHAPTER 242

#### H.P. 975 - L.D. 1323

#### An Act To Maximize Service to Students by Adopting Conditional Allowances for Participation by Families of School Board Members in School Activities

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1002, sub-§1,** ¶**A**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 128, §1, is amended to read:

A. "Employee" means a person who receives <u>on-</u> <u>going</u> monetary payment or benefits<del>, no matter the</del> <del>amount paid or hours worked</del>, for personal services performed for a school administrative unit.

**Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1002, sub-§1, ¶A-1** is enacted to read:

A-1. "Stipend employee" means a person who receives limited monetary payment or benefits, through a series of payments or in a lump sum, for personal services performed in an advisory, mentoring or coaching capacity for a school administrative unit.

**Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §1002, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 128, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Employment by school administrative unit, school union, academy. A member of a school board or spouse of a member may not be an employee in a public school within the jurisdiction of the school board to which the member is elected or in a contract high school or academy located within a supervisory union in which the member is a representative on the union committee.

A. A school board may, but is not required to, permit the spouse of a member of the school board to serve as a stipend employee on a contractual basis when that action is in the best interest of students and a summation of potential conflicts of interest is documented and a priori mitigations are described in the signed contract. A school board may adopt a written policy on nepotism that includes hiring practices for school-sanctioned stipend positions, discourages favoritism and political patronage, considers the needs of the school system and provides that all qualified applicants have a fair and equal opportunity to be selected on merit, with priority consideration given to the best interest of students without restrictions based solely on family association.

This paragraph is repealed July 1, 2024.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §1002, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Permissive volunteer placement by school administrative unit, school union, academy. Notwithstanding subsection 2-A, a school board may, but is not required to, permit a school board member's spouse to serve as a volunteer. A school board may adopt a written policy on nepotism to discourage favoritism and political patronage, consider the needs of the school system and provide that all volunteers have a fair and equal opportunity to be selected on merit, with priority consideration given to the best interest of students without restrictions based solely on family association.

This subsection is repealed July 1, 2024.

See title page for effective date.

# CHAPTER 243

## S.P. 462 - L.D. 1412

An Act To Update and Improve the MaineEARNS Database and Reconvene the State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12902 is enacted to read:

#### §12902. Educational outcome database

No later than January 1, 2022, and biennially thereafter, the Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Education and the task force, shall update the database.

Sec. 2. State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force appointments. All appointments to the State Education and Employment

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Outcomes Task Force pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 12901 must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this Act. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this Act a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the task force to meet and conduct its business.

Sec. 3. State Education and Employment **Outcomes Task Force to study improvements to** the Department of Labor's educational out**come database.** The State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force shall study the updating of, and improvements to, the educational outcome database under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 12901. The study must include, but is not limited to, methods of ensuring the database contains the most current data available, ways to add to and improve the database with additional data regarding vocational schools, student loan information, financial aid awards and student loan default rates, incorporation of data available in other publicly available state or national databases, best practices from other states and any other information that would inform a prospective student. The task force shall report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs and labor and housing matters no later than November 1, 2022. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs may report out a bill related to the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

### CHAPTER 244 H.P. 1047 - L.D. 1431

An Act To Allow Certain Veterans' Organizations To Be Billed for Electricity Usage at the Same Rate as Residential Customers and To Require the Public Utilities Commission To Consider Rate Design Modifications

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3109 is enacted to read:

<u>§3109. Military veterans' organizations; residential</u> <u>customer</u>

#### FIRST SPECIAL SESSION - 2021

**1. Definitions.** For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Eligible military veterans' organization" means a military veterans' organization qualified under the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 United States Code, Section 501(c)(19), as amended, excluding a trust or foundation for a post or organization of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

B. "Residential customer" means a customer defined as residential under the terms and conditions of the customer's transmission and distribution utility.

2. Residential rate for military veterans' organizations. A transmission and distribution utility shall, at the request of an eligible military veterans' organization, bill that organization at the same rate as the utility bills a residential customer for electric power or service provided to a facility owned by that organization or a facility rented by that organization if that organization is billed directly for electric power or service provided by the utility.

**3. Repeal.** This section is repealed September 1, 2025.

**Sec. 2.** Consideration of charges. The Public Utilities Commission shall, in its current proceeding on grid modernization, Docket No. 2021-00039, consider rate design modifications, including adjustments to fixed charges and demand charges.

See title page for effective date.

### CHAPTER 245

## H.P. 1082 - L.D. 1466

#### An Act To Improve the Efficiency of Certain Consumer Credit Protection Laws

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

#### PART A

Sec. A-1. 9-A MRSA §1-201, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2005, c. 604, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, this Act applies to consumer credit transactions and open-end credit plans made or entered into in this State. For purposes of this Act, a consumer credit transaction or open-end credit plan is made or entered into in this State if: the creditor, wherever located, enters into a consumer credit transaction or open-end credit plan with a consumer who is located in this State.