

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

**CHAPTER 255
H.P. 368 - L.D. 505**

**An Act To Expand the
Disciplinary Authority of the
Board of Trustees of the Maine
Criminal Justice Academy**

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2803-A, sub-§15-A is enacted to read:

15-A. Standards of conduct. To adopt rules establishing standards of conduct for an applicant for a certificate and a certificate holder the violation of which subject that person to disciplinary action pursuant to section 2806-A, subsection 5, paragraph M:

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2806-A, sub-§5, ¶K, as amended by PL 2019, c. 438, §5, is further amended by amending subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) Less than 60 days had elapsed since the officer initially became involved in the investigation or purported investigation; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2806-A, sub-§5, ¶L, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 438, §6, is amended to read:

L. Engaging in sexual contact, as defined in Title 17-A, section 251, subsection 1, paragraph D, with another person, not the person's spouse, if at the time of the sexual contact the applicant or certificate holder is acting in performance of official duties and the other person is under arrest, in custody or being interrogated or temporarily detained, including during a traffic stop or questioning pursuant to an investigation of a crime, except that it is not grounds for discipline that a certificate holder properly performs a search of a person for legitimate law enforcement purposes consistent with training standards approved by the board; ~~and~~

Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2806-A, sub-§5, ¶M is enacted to read:

M. Engaging in conduct that is a violation of the standards of conduct established by the board by rule pursuant to section 2803-A, subsection 15-A.

Sec. 5. 25 MRSA §2806-A, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 147, §39, is amended to read:

10. Confidentiality; access to documents; public records. All complaints, charges or accusations of misconduct, replies to those complaints, charges or accusations and any other information or materials that may result in suspension or revocation of a certificate that are considered by the board or the complaint review committee established pursuant to section 2805-C are confidential. If a person subject to this chapter requests

an adjudicatory hearing under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, that hearing must be open to the public. The hearing officer who presides over the hearing shall issue a written decision that states the conduct or other facts on the basis of which action is being taken and the reason for that action. Once issued, the hearing officer's written decision is a public record under the Freedom of Access Act, regardless of whether it is appealed. Any action taken by the board pursuant to this section as a result of a complaint, charge or accusation must be supported by a statement of findings and must be issued as a written decision of the board. The written decision of the board and findings are public records under the Freedom of Access Act.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 256
H.P. 418 - L.D. 573**

**An Act Concerning Records of
the Employment of Law
Enforcement Officers and
Corrections Officers**

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2805-B, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Application for employment with a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail. This subsection applies when a law enforcement officer or corrections officer who is employed by a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail, or who was employed by a law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail within 90 days prior to making an application for employment, applies for employment as a law enforcement officer or corrections officer with a different law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail.

A. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

(1) "Applicant" means the law enforcement officer or corrections officer who is applying for employment at a hiring agency.

(2) "Employing agency" means the law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail that employs the applicant at the time that a request is made pursuant to paragraph B or that employed the applicant within 90 days prior to the applicant making an employment application to the hiring agency.

(3) "Employment records" means personnel, employment and any other records pertaining to an applicant's employment and job performance with the employing agency but does not include any internal investigative records of the employing agency relating to the applicant.

(4) "Hiring agency" means the law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail to which the applicant is applying for employment.

B. The applicant shall sign a request that an employing agency release all employment records to a hiring agency. For the purposes of the employment application, the request form must include a waiver of any rights that the applicant has to the privacy of the employment records. The request form must be signed by the applicant and the signature must be witnessed. The board shall adopt rules establishing a standard request and waiver form. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

C. An employing agency that receives a request pursuant to paragraph B shall promptly release all employment records to the hiring agency.

D. An employing agency that responds to a request pursuant to paragraph B and releases information pursuant to paragraph C is immune from civil or criminal liability for releasing the requested information to a hiring agency.

E. A hiring agency that receives information pursuant to paragraph C from an employing agency shall treat that information in the same manner as it treats employment records of the employees of the hiring agency. A hiring agency is immune from civil or criminal liability for receiving the requested information.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2805-B, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Release of the results of a polygraph examination. When a polygraph examination has been performed on a law enforcement officer or corrections officer and the results indicate probable cause to believe that the officer is or has been involved in criminal activity, the law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail that conducted the examination or for whom the examination was performed shall release the results of the examination to the head of the law enforcement agency, correctional facility or county or regional jail that employs the law enforcement officer or corrections officer.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 257
H.P. 488 - L.D. 661**

**An Act To Ensure Equity in
Petitions for Rulemaking under
the Maine Administrative
Procedure Act**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §8055, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Petition submitted by persons incarcerated in Department of Corrections facility. Notwithstanding subsections 2 and 3, the Department of Corrections shall initiate appropriate rule-making proceedings within 60 days after receipt of a petition to adopt or modify a rule submitted by 150 or more persons incarcerated in a department correctional facility under Title 34-A or by 25% or more of the total number of males or females incarcerated in a department correctional facility under Title 34-A, whichever is fewer. The department is not required to initiate appropriate rule-making proceedings pursuant to this subsection if a petition to adopt or modify the same rule was received within the previous 12 months. The department may take reasonable steps to ensure that each signature on a petition submitted pursuant to this subsection is the signature of the person it purports to be and that the person was incarcerated in a department correctional facility under Title 34-A at the time of signing.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §8055, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Petition submitted by persons incarcerated in county or municipal detention facility. Notwithstanding subsections 2 and 3, the Department of Corrections shall initiate appropriate rule-making proceedings with respect to standards adopted pursuant to Title 34-A, section 1208 or 1208-B within 60 days after receipt of a petition to adopt or modify a rule submitted by 150 or more persons incarcerated in a county or municipal detention facility or by 25% or more of the total number of males or females incarcerated in a county or municipal detention facility, whichever is fewer. The department is not required to initiate appropriate rule-making proceedings pursuant to this subsection if a petition to adopt or modify the same rule was received within the previous 12 months. The department may take reasonable steps to ensure that each signature on a petition submitted pursuant to this subsection is the signature of the person it purports to be and that the person was incarcerated in the facility at the time of signing.

See title page for effective date.
