

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.

Augusta, Maine
2021

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective June 23, 2021.

CHAPTER 334

H.P. 496 - L.D. 669

**An Act To Ensure Public Ways
Are Compliant with the
Federal Americans with
Disabilities Act of 1990**

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §709 is enacted to read:

§709. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 compliance

Whenever the Department of Transportation undertakes a project for construction or reconstruction of a public way, the owner of an aboveground facility, including but not limited to poles, guys, hydrants, transformers or other utility facilities, within that portion of the public way shall ensure that the facility meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any alteration, relocation or expense necessary to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is the sole responsibility of the facility owner.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §3055 is enacted to read:

§3055. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 compliance

Whenever a municipality undertakes a project for construction or reconstruction of a public way, the owner of an aboveground facility, including but not limited to poles, guys, hydrants, transformers or other utility facilities, within that portion of the public way shall ensure that the facility meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any alteration, relocation or expense necessary to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is the sole responsibility of the facility owner.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 335

H.P. 790 - L.D. 1061

**An Act To Protect Minor
Political Parties That Seek To
Retain Qualified Party Status**

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §301, sub-§1, ¶E, as amended by PL 2017, c. 254, §1, is further amended to read:

E. ~~At~~ The party's candidate for Governor or for President received at least 5% of the total votes cast in the State for Governor or for President in the last preceding gubernatorial or presidential election or at least 10,000 voters were enrolled in the party voted in as of the last general election, except that a qualified party does not have to meet this enrollment the requirements of this paragraph until the 2nd general election after it has qualified and thereafter.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 336

H.P. 839 - L.D. 1161

**An Act Concerning Marina-
based Restaurants in the
Shoreland Zone**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §439-A, sub-§4-D is enacted to read:

4-D. Exemption for expansion of an existing restaurant associated with an existing marina. In accordance with the provisions of this subsection, a municipality may adopt an ordinance that allows the expansion of a restaurant that is part of a marina that has been permitted in accordance with all applicable state and local requirements.

A. Notwithstanding subsection 4, a municipality may adopt an ordinance pursuant to this subsection that allows the expansion of a restaurant that is part of a marina that has been permitted in accordance with all applicable state and local requirements if the following requirements are met:

- (1) The restaurant expansion is not located over a water body or wetland;
- (2) The restaurant expansion is not located any closer to the water body or wetland than the existing restaurant; and
- (3) The restaurant and the marina that the restaurant is a part of have both been in existence as of January 1, 2021.

B. Except for the water and wetland setback requirements in subsection 4, the expansion of a restaurant that is part of a marina that meets the requirements of this subsection must meet all other

state and local permit requirements and comply with all other applicable rules.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 337
H.P. 1033 - L.D. 1399**

**An Act To Continue
Temporary Modification of
Certain In-person Notarization
and Acknowledgement
Requirements and Developing
Permanent Implementation of
Remote and Online
Notarization**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Executive Order 37 FY 19/20 as amended by Executive Order 37-A FY 19/20 has provided authorization for remote notarization with appropriate safeguards during the state of emergency declared by the Governor; and

Whereas, the need for providing for remote notarization beyond the state of emergency is universally recognized; and

Whereas, a thorough review of the notarization laws is necessary to update the State's laws and to incorporate long-term remote authorization procedures; and

Whereas, the review and enactment might not be completed by the time the state of emergency terminates; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §961 is enacted to read:

§961. Continuation of temporary modification of certain in-person notarization and acknowledgement requirements

This section is intended to continue the effect of Executive Order 37 FY 19/20 as amended by Executive Order 37-A FY 19/20 beyond the end of the state of emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to Title 37-B, section 742 until January 1, 2023.

1. Remote notarization. This section applies to all laws of the State that require a signature to be acknowledged, witnessed or notarized in person, with the exceptions of solemnizing marriages, administering oaths to circulators of state or local direct initiatives of legislation or referendum petitions and nomination petitions of candidates for electoral office and absentee ballots in state and local elections. This section authorizes remote, not electronic, notarization. This section does not affect any requirements under laws of this State pertaining to the taking of sworn statements and acknowledgments by notaries and those authorized to perform notarial acts other than the requirement to appear in person.

2. Requirements. Until January 1, 2023, with the exceptions noted in subsection 1, the enforcement of the laws of this State pertaining to notarization that require the physical presence of the person whose oath is being taken and who is signing a document, referred to in this section as "the signatory," at the same location as the notary public or other person authorized to perform a notarial act, referred to in this section as "the notary," and any witness to the signing are suspended as long as the following conditions are met:

A. The notary is physically within the State while performing the notarial act and follows any additional guidance for remote notarization issued by the Secretary of State;

B. The act of notarization or witnessing required by law is completed remotely using 2-way audio-visual communication technology and:

(1) The 2-way audio-visual communication technology allows direct contemporaneous interaction between the signatory, the notary and any witness by sight and sound in real time. Prerecording is not permitted;

(2) The signatory is reasonably identified by the notary in one of the following ways:

(a) The signatory is personally known to the notary;

(b) The signatory presents a valid photo identification to the notary during the 2-way audio-visual communication; or

(c) The oath or affirmation is provided by a witness who:

(i) Is in the physical presence of either the notary or the signatory; or

(ii) Is able to communicate with the notary and the signatory simultaneously by sight and sound through 2-way audio-visual communication technology at the time of the notarization, if the witness has personal knowledge of the signatory and has