

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**  
**September 29, 2021**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 5, 2022 to May 9, 2022**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**DECEMBER 29, 2021**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**AUGUST 8, 2022**

**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**  
**2022**

county, the Secretary of State shall notify the contracted courier service, which shall take physical control of all ballots and related materials involved in the recount as soon as possible and deliver them to the recount facility. When a recount is requested for a statewide office, congressional office, presidential election or statewide referendum or for a county office that encompasses more than one county, the Secretary of State may direct the courier to retrieve ballots from certain voting jurisdictions and deliver them to the recount facility so that the recount may be conducted in stages until the requesting candidate or the lead applicant for a referendum recount concedes or until all the ballots are recounted. If a qualified courier service is not available to provide these services, the State Police shall collect and deliver the ballots as described in this section at the request of the Secretary of State.

**Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §739, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 258, §1, is further amended to read:

On request, a municipal clerk or the Secretary of State, or both, shall produce any ballots or incoming voting lists in their custody before the Governor, either branch of the Legislature, any legislative committee or a court of competent jurisdiction. Original ballots produced under this section must remain in the sole custody of the requester until they are returned to the municipal clerk or Secretary of State, and the requester shall maintain the ballots in a secure location. Inspection of ballots produced under this section is subject to oversight by the relevant municipal clerk, the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee. If there is an unresolved disputed ballot for an election to the State House of Representatives or the State Senate arising from a recount conducted pursuant to section 737-A, the Secretary of State shall make a copy of that ballot available for inspection by the public. A copy of a ballot that is made available for public inspection pursuant to this section must be made available in a manner that preserves the voter's anonymity. Copies of disputed ballots made available for public inspection under this section must be retained by the Secretary of State for a period of 2 years after the outcome of the election is finally determined.

**Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §814, sub-§2** is enacted to read:

**2. Transfer prohibited.** The municipal clerk may not transfer possession, custody or control of a voting machine to any person except as expressly authorized by the Secretary of State.

**Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §845, sub-§2** is enacted to read:

**2. Transfer prohibited.** The municipal clerk may not transfer possession, custody or control of a voting

device to any person except as expressly authorized by the Secretary of State.

See title page for effective date.

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## CHAPTER 537

### H.P. 1343 - L.D. 1802

#### An Act To Amend the Requirements of the Reorganization Plan for the Formation of Regional School Units

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1461, sub-§3, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 580, §3, is further amended in subparagraph (1) by repealing the first blocked paragraph.

**Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1461, sub-§3, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 580, §3, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) The plan must provide comprehensive programming for all students from kindergarten to grade 12 and must include at least one publicly supported secondary school, except if the plan provides comprehensive programming:

(a) For all students from grade 9 to grade 12 within the regional school unit, with programming for students from kindergarten to grade 8 provided by the separate school administrative units;

(b) For all students from kindergarten to grade 8 within the regional school unit, with programming for students from grade 9 to grade 12 provided by either operating a school or contracting for school privileges pursuant to chapter 115; or

(c) For all students in a grade configuration that meets the needs of the students from the municipalities that make up the regional school unit, with programming for all other students provided by either operating a school or contracting for school privileges pursuant to chapter 115.

**Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §1461, sub-§3, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 251, §1 and affected by §12, is repealed.

**Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §1479, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 171, §2, is further amended to read:

A regional school unit shall maintain a program that includes kindergarten to grade 12 except for the school administrative districts that did not operate kindergarten to grade 12 that were reformulated into regional school units in accordance with Public Law 2007, chapter 240, Part XXXX, section 36, subsection 12, as amended by Public Law 2007, chapter 668, section 48, and except for a regional school unit operating under a plan described in section 1461, subsection 3, paragraph B, subparagraph (2), divisions (a) to (c).

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 538**

**S.P. 656 - L.D. 1838**

**An Act To Improve Student  
Access to Postsecondary School  
Transcripts and Diplomas**

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

**Sec. 1. 9-A MRSA §6-104, sub-§1, ¶I**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 427, Pt. A, §12, is further amended to read:

I. Convene meetings of individuals representing various segments of the public and the consumer credit industry to advise and consult with the administrator concerning the exercise of powers under this Act and to make recommendations to the administrator. The administrator may authorize reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred in attending the meetings; ~~and~~

**Sec. 2. 9-A MRSA §6-104, sub-§1, ¶J**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 427, Pt. A, §13, is amended to read:

J. To the extent permitted in Title X of the federal Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Public Law 111-203, Section 1042, enforce the provisions of Title X of the federal Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Public Law 111-203 or regulations issued under those provisions with respect to entities that are state-chartered, incorporated, licensed or otherwise authorized to do business under the laws of this State and secure remedies under provisions of Title X of the federal Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Public Law 111-203 or remedies otherwise provided under other provisions of law with respect to entities that are state-chartered, incorporated, licensed or otherwise authorized to do business under the laws of this State; and

**Sec. 3. 9-A MRSA §6-104, sub-§1, ¶K** is enacted to read:

K. Enforce the provisions of Title 20-A, section 10015.

**Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §10015** is enacted to read:

**§10015. Access to transcripts and diplomas**

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

A. "Debt" means any money, obligation, claim or sum due or owing or alleged to be due or owing from a student. "Debt" does not include the fee, if any, charged to all students for the costs of providing a transcript or diploma.

B. "Four-year postsecondary educational institution" means a public or private postsecondary school in the State that offers a bachelor's degree or other 4-year degree.

C. "Two-year postsecondary educational institution" means a public or private postsecondary school in the State that offers an associate degree or other 2-year degree.

**2. Prohibition.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, upon the request of a current or former student, a 2-year postsecondary educational institution or 4-year postsecondary educational institution shall provide that student's transcript or diploma and may not condition the release of the transcript or diploma on agreement to a repayment plan unless the student owes a debt of \$500 or more at a 2-year postsecondary educational institution or \$2,500 or more at a 4-year postsecondary educational institution. If a 2-year postsecondary educational institution or 4-year postsecondary educational institution requires a student to agree to a repayment plan under this subsection, the 2-year postsecondary educational institution or 4-year postsecondary educational institution shall:

A. Provide the student with the right to appeal the terms of the repayment plan; and

B. Collect data on the reason for the student's request for the release of the transcript or diploma, including but not limited to:

- (1) A job application;
- (2) A transfer to another institution;
- (3) An application for financial aid;
- (4) Pursuit of opportunities in the military or National Guard; or
- (5) Pursuit of other postsecondary educational opportunities.

A 2-year postsecondary educational institution or 4-year postsecondary educational institution may not require a student to make a payment on a repayment plan prior to releasing the transcript or diploma.