

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.

Augusta, Maine
2022

**CHAPTER 573
H.P. 1491 - L.D. 2005**

**An Act Regarding the
Reapportionment of the Knox
County Budget Committee
Districts**

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

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 757 requires the Knox County Commissioners to prepare a redistricting plan for Knox County budget committee seats by June 1, 2021 and submit that plan to the Secretary of State; and

Whereas, upon receipt of the redistricting plan, the Secretary of State is required to submit the plan to the Legislature for "review and enactment"; and

Whereas, although the Knox County Commissioners determined that no changes in the budget committee districts were necessary, this legislation is needed to provide clarity in time for the elections of budget committee members this year; 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. 30-A MRSA §757, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2013, c. 481, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Redistricting process. The county commissioners shall review the districts established in subsection 2 and, if changes are necessary, prepare a redistricting plan for county budget committee seats by June 1, ~~2021~~ 2031 and every 10 years thereafter. The county commissioners shall submit ~~the any redistricting~~ plan to the Secretary of State within 5 days of adoption. ~~The If redistricting is required,~~ the Secretary of State shall immediately transmit the redistricting plan to the Legislature for review and enactment.

Sec. 2. Knox County budget committee districts. Notwithstanding that provision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 1 that requires a redistricting plan to be prepared in 2021 by the Knox County Commissioners and reviewed and enacted by the Legislature, the Knox County budget committee districts specified in Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 2 remain the same until a redistricting plan is submitted to the Secretary of State by the Knox County Commissioners in 2031 or later and that plan is subsequently reviewed and enacted by the Legislature.

Sec. 3. Application. This Act is not intended to affect the terms of the Knox County budget committee members in office on the effective date of this Act.

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

Effective April 7, 2022.

**CHAPTER 574
H.P. 1504 - L.D. 2024**

**An Act To Allow County and
Regional Communications
Centers To Request Polygraph
Examinations for Employees
and Applicants for
Employment**

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

Whereas, under current law, employees of or applicants for employment with law enforcement agencies, including as emergency services dispatchers for those agencies, are subject to polygraph examinations; and

Whereas, other public safety dispatchers, such as for fire or emergency medical services, are not subject to polygraph examinations, despite having access to confidential records such as investigative and criminal intelligence information; and

Whereas, to ensure that such information is not misused, it is necessary to correct this disparity as soon as possible; 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. 32 MRSA §7364, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 316, §3 and affected by §5, is amended to read:

3. Exception. This section does not apply to employees of or applicants for employment with law enforcement agencies or county and regional communications centers. As used in this subsection, "county and regional communications centers" means publicly owned and publicly operated entities that dispatch emergency services, but does not include dispatch cen-

ters that dispatch only fire services or emergency medical services and does not include an entity operated by or under the control of a law enforcement agency.

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

Effective April 7, 2022.

**CHAPTER 575
S.P. 660 - L.D. 1861**

An Act To Establish the Safe Homes Program

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §150-R is enacted to read:

§150-R. Safe Homes Awareness Month

The month of September of each year is designated as Safe Homes Awareness Month and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation to raise awareness among the people of the State of the importance of safety in the home and of the existence of and assistance that is available from the Safe Homes Program established in Title 25, section 7001.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA Pt. 15 is enacted to read:

**PART 15
SAFE HOMES
CHAPTER 801
SAFE HOMES PROGRAM**

§7001. Safe Homes Program

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

- A. "Dangerous weapon" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 9, paragraph C.
- B. "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.
- C. "Designated groups" means law enforcement agencies and associations, public schools, public preschool programs, foster homes, hospitals or other facilities in which newborns are delivered, veterans' programs and members of the public.
- D. "Firearm" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 12-A.
- E. "Foster home" means a family foster home as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 3.
- F. "Prescription drug" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 8731, subsection 3-A.

G. "Public preschool program" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 23-A.

H. "Public school" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 24.

I. "Safety device" means a device designed to secure a firearm, a dangerous weapon or prescription drugs, including but not limited to a firearms safety device, safe, lock or lockbox designed for securing firearms, dangerous weapons or prescription drugs.

2. Program established. The Safe Homes Program is established and is administered by the department to support the safe storage of prescription drugs, firearms and dangerous weapons in homes or public spaces by providing grants for purchasing safety devices in accordance with this section.

3. Grants. The Safe Homes Program, established under subsection 2, must provide grants to fund the purchase of safety devices.

A. Grants may be provided under this subsection to designated groups and nonprofit and community organizations serving designated groups.

B. The department shall administer the provision of grants pursuant to this subsection through an agreement with a statewide law enforcement association.

C. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. The rules must include procedures for assisting applicants with the following: the application process; accepting applications; approving and disapproving applications; distributing funding, coupons or vouchers to successful applicants; and expenditures of funds. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4. Safe Homes Program Fund. The Safe Homes Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund to provide funding to achieve the purposes of this section. The fund consists of any funds received from private and public sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. A small portion of the funding may be used by the department to fund administration of the grant program.

Sec. 3. Report. By January 1, 2023 the Commissioner of Public Safety shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters on plans for an education program to implement the Safe Homes Program established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 7001 and Safe Homes Awareness Month established by Title 1, section 150-R.