

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

spond to inquiries from persons other than criminal justice agencies and other than entities that are authorized to obtain the sealed criminal history record information under section 2265 by not disclosing the existence of the eligible criminal conviction without being subject to any sanctions under the laws of this State. Other than when responding to criminal justice agencies or when under oath while being prosecuted for a subsequent crime, a person whose criminal conviction is sealed does not violate Title 17-A, section 451, 452 or 453 by not disclosing the sealed criminal conviction.

§2267. Review of determination of eligibility; review of determination of subsequent criminal conviction

A written order entered under section 2264, subsection 5 or 7 may be reviewed by the Supreme Judicial Court.

1. Appeal by person. A person aggrieved by a written order under section 2264, subsection 5 or 7 may not appeal as of right. The time for taking the appeal and the manner and any conditions for the taking of the appeal are as the Supreme Judicial Court provides by rule.

2. Appeal by State. If the State is aggrieved by a written order under section 2264, subsection 5 or 7, it may appeal as of right, and a certificate of approval by the Attorney General is not required. The time for taking the appeal and the manner and any conditions for the taking of the appeal are as the Supreme Judicial Court provides by rule.

§2268. Eligible criminal conviction sealed under former chapter 310

Notwithstanding Title 16, section 704, the criminal history record information relating to a criminal conviction for which the court has determined the person is entitled to special restrictions on dissemination and use under former section 2254 is confidential and may not be disseminated by a criminal justice agency, whether directly or through any intermediary, except to the person who is the subject of the criminal conviction or that person's designee and to a criminal justice agency for the purpose of the administration of criminal justice and criminal justice agency employment. For the purposes of this section, dissemination to a criminal justice agency for the purpose of the administration of criminal justice includes dissemination and use of the criminal history record information relating to the qualifying criminal conviction by an attorney for the State or for another jurisdiction as part of a prosecution of the person for a new crime, including use in a charging instrument or other public court document and in open court.

Section 2264, subsection 7 applies to a criminal conviction for which the court has determined the person is entitled to special restrictions on dissemination and use under former section 2254 if the person is convicted of a new crime.

§2269. Violation

A person who, in violation of section 2265 or 2268, intentionally disseminates sealed criminal history record information relating to a criminal conviction knowing it to be in violation of section 2265 or 2268 is guilty of unlawful dissemination of sealed records. Violation of this section is a Class E crime.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 675

S.P. 710 - L.D. 1979

**An Act Regarding the
Development of
Comprehensive River Resource
Management Plans**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §407, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. EE, §17 and affected by §30 and amended by c. 657, Pt. W, §5, is further amended to read:

§407. Comprehensive river resource management plans

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, with assistance from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Governor's Energy Office and other state agencies as needed, shall develop, subject to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, a comprehensive river resource management plan for each watershed with a hydropower project licensed under the Federal Power Act or to be licensed under the Federal Power Act. These plans must provide a basis for state agency comments, recommendations and permitting decisions and at a minimum include, as applicable, minimum flows, impoundment level regimes, upstream and downstream fish passage, maintenance of aquatic habitat and habitat productivity, public access and recreational opportunities. These plans must update, complement and, after public notice, comment and hearings in the watershed, be adopted as components of the State's comprehensive rivers management plan. A comprehensive river resource management plan adopted under this section is a major substantive rule as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Department of Environmental Protection; evaluation of comprehensive river resource management plan development process. The Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Inland Fisheries

and Wildlife, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Marine Resources, the Governor's Energy Office and other state agencies as needed, shall evaluate the current process for the development of comprehensive river resource management plans established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 407 to develop findings and recommendations that, at a minimum:

1. Identify the agency or agencies that are best positioned to provide appropriate oversight of the plan development and update process;
2. Identify the staffing and resources necessary to allow for the timely development and update of the plans required by Title 12, section 407;
3. Determine the methods by which the plan development and update process can best provide and account for public participation and input; and
4. Provide any other recommendations for the improvement or clarification of the existing process in Title 12, section 407, which may include, but are not limited to, a proposed schedule for the development or update of plans for each watershed for which a plan is required under Title 12, section 407 and an evaluation of options for legislative involvement in the development or update of the plans or legislative review of proposed plans prior to adoption.

On or before January 15, 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters a report outlining its findings and recommendations developed pursuant to this section, including any proposed legislation. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the 131st Legislature in 2023.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 676
H.P. 1516 - L.D. 2034

**An Act To Correct
Inconsistencies, Conflicts and
Errors in the Laws of Maine**

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

Whereas, acts of this and previous Legislatures have resulted in certain technical inconsistencies, conflicts and errors in the laws of Maine; and

Whereas, these inconsistencies, conflicts and errors create uncertainties and confusion in interpreting legislative intent; and

Whereas, it is vitally necessary that these uncertainties and this confusion be resolved in order to prevent any injustice or hardship to the citizens of Maine; 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:

PART A

Sec. A-1. 4 MRSA §18-B, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2021, c. 245, Pt. G, §1 and c. 329, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

7. Authority and fees. The Judicial Department is authorized to refer cases to the Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Service for mediation and, when a court refers case types or individual cases to the Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Service for mediation, the court shall assess the parties a fee to be apportioned equally among the parties, unless the court otherwise directs. The fee must be deposited in the dedicated account created in subsection 8.

A party may file an in forma pauperis application for waiver of fee. If the court finds that the party does not have sufficient funds to pay the fee, it shall order the fee waived.

Sec. A-2. 4 MRSA §1051, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 140, §1 and c. 293, Pt. A, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§1051. Legal holidays

Court may not be held on Sunday or any day designated for the annual Thanksgiving; New Year's Day, January 1st; Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, the 3rd Monday in January; Washington's Birthday, the 3rd Monday in February; Patriot's Day, the 3rd Monday in April; Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, but if the Federal Government designates May 30th as the date for observance of Memorial Day, the 30th of May; Juneteenth, June 19th; the 4th of July; Labor Day, the first Monday of September; Indigenous Peoples Day, the 2nd Monday in October; Veterans Day, November 11th; or on Christmas Day. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court may order that court be held on a legal holiday when the Chief Justice finds that the interests of justice and judicial economy in any particular case will be served. The public offices in county buildings may be closed to business on the holidays named in this section. When any one of the holidays named in this section falls on Sunday, the Monday following must be observed as a holiday, with all the privileges applying to any of the days named in this section.