

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JUNE 29, 2023**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2023**

**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**  
**2023**

adopted pursuant to this subparagraph are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

(2) The commissioner may make expenditures of money in connection with an agreement authorized under this paragraph from any funds of the department that are available to the commissioner.

(3) Notwithstanding Title 14, chapter 741, sovereign immunity from civil suit in federal court is waived consistent with 23 United States Code, Sections 326 and 327 and limited to the compliance, discharge or enforcement of a responsibility assumed by the department under this paragraph. This subparagraph applies only to actions that are authorized under this paragraph and does not create liability that exceeds the liability created under 23 United States Code, Sections 325 to 327; and

**Sec. C-3. 23 MRSA §4206, sub-§1, ¶Q** is enacted to read:

Q. To implement a program to enhance the skills of the department's transportation workers and ferry service workers. The program must provide that employees in these classifications who participate in training and who demonstrate they have achieved competencies prescribed by the commissioner may progress immediately to the next level in these classification series.

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

Effective May 5, 2023.

**CHAPTER 51**

**S.P. 132 - L.D. 311**

**An Act to Delay the Repeal of the Law Governing the Sale of Pari-Mutuel Pools for Simulcast Harness Racing**

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

**Whereas,** this bill delays the repeal of the provision of law governing the sale of pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools for simulcast races; and

**Whereas,** it is important that this legislation take effect immediately in order for these changes to be in place before the beginning of the next harness racing season; 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. 8 MRSA §275-B, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 406, §3, is amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

This subsection is repealed January 1, ~~2024~~ 2026.

**Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §278** is amended to read:

**§278. Minors**

~~No~~ A minor, whether attending a race or employed in any manner on or about a ~~race track~~ racetrack, shall ~~may not~~ be permitted to participate in any pari-mutuel pool or be admitted to any pari-mutuel ~~enclosure~~ sales area.

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

Effective May 8, 2023.

**CHAPTER 52**

**H.P. 16 - L.D. 12**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Severance Pay to Cover More Types of Employers and Include More Workers**

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

**Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §625-B, sub-§1, ¶A,** as amended by PL 2015, c. 417, §1, is further amended to read:

A. "Covered establishment" means any ~~industrial or commercial~~ facility or part thereof that employs or has employed at any time in the preceding 12-month period 100 or more persons.

**Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §625-B, sub-§1, ¶A-1,** as enacted by PL 2015, c. 417, §1, is amended to read:

A-1. "Closing" means the permanent shutdown of ~~industrial or commercial~~ operations at a covered establishment. A closing may occur due to relocation, or termination or consolidation of the employer's business.

**Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §625-B, sub-§1, ¶F,** as enacted by PL 1979, c. 663, §157, is amended to read: