

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.

Augusta, Maine
2023

**CHAPTER 105
H.P. 306 - L.D. 489**

An Act to Provide Equal Educational Opportunity by Adopting Rules Ensuring Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Protected Class Status in Educational Institutions

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4603, as amended by PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. A, §18, is further amended to read:

§4603. Rulemaking; review

The Commissioner of Education ~~shall have~~ has joint rule-making authority with the commission to effectuate this subchapter. On or before January 15, 2024 and at least once every 10 years thereafter, the Commissioner of Education and the commission shall jointly review rules adopted pursuant to this section and, if the Commissioner of Education and the commission determine that those rules must be amended to reflect changes in statute and best practices to ensure an individual's right to freedom from discrimination in education, the Commissioner of Education and the commission shall as soon as practicable initiate rulemaking in accordance with this section.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 106
H.P. 314 - L.D. 497**

An Act to Prohibit the Use of Personal Watercraft on Keyes Pond in the Town of Sweden

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13071-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §384 and affected by §422, is amended by amending subparagraph (32) to read:

(32) Highland Lake or Woods Pond in the Town of Bridgton in Cumberland County if the personal watercraft is rented and does not display a decal identifying the rental agency that owns the personal watercraft; ~~or~~

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §13071-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §384 and affected by §422, is amended by amending subparagraph (33) to read:

(33) Lake St. George in the Town of Liberty; or

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §13071-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §384 and affected by §422, is amended by enacting a new subparagraph (34) to read:

(34) Keyes Pond in the Town of Sweden in Oxford County.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 107
H.P. 327 - L.D. 522**

An Act to Require That Motor Vehicles Be Clear of Snow and Ice When Operated on Public Ways

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2093 is enacted to read:

§2093. Snow and ice; duty of care

The operator of a vehicle with a registered weight under 10,000 pounds shall take reasonable measures to prevent snow or ice on the vehicle from falling off the vehicle while it is being operated on a public way.

A violation of this section that causes damage or injury is a traffic infraction subject to a fine of not more than \$50 for a first offense and for which a fine of not less than \$150 and not more than \$250 may be adjudged for each subsequent offense.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2396, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2001, c. 144, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Unsecured load. A person may not operate on a public way a vehicle with a load that is not fastened, secured, confined or loaded to reasonably prevent a portion from falling off.

For the purposes of this section, "load" includes, but is not limited to, firewood, pulpwood, logs, bolts, snow, ice or other material, but does not include loose hay, pea vines, straw, grain or cornstalks.

When the load consists of sawdust, shavings or wood chips, and a reasonable effort has been made to completely cover the load, minor amounts blown from the vehicle while in transit do not constitute a violation.

A violation of this section is a traffic infraction subject to a ~~forfeiture~~ fine of not less than \$150 nor more than \$500.

See title page for effective date.