

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

electric bicycle rebates to recipients who are low-income and moderate-income individuals and to entities that serve those individuals, as determined by the trust. For a recipient to receive a rebate for the purchase of an electric bicycle under the program, the electric bicycle must serve as the recipient's principal means of commuting, as determined by the trust.

The trust shall establish the rebate amount for each eligible electric vehicle. The trust shall establish rebate amounts that it determines most effectively increase the purchase of eligible electric vehicles to advance the State's carbon reduction targets and reduce transportation-related energy costs. For each model of an eligible electric vehicle, the trust may establish different rebate amounts based on the size of the vehicle battery. The trust may establish different rebate amounts for the purpose of providing reasonable opportunity for participation in the program across different customer groups and geographic areas. The trust may establish reasonable limits on the number of rebates per vehicle or per person.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 141

H.P. 169 - L.D. 264

An Act to Clarify the Process for Admission to the Bar on Motion

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §805-A, sub-§2, ¶C, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §23, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §805-A, sub-§2, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. Establishes that the applicant has satisfied all of the other requirements under the Maine Bar Admission Rules for the board to issue a certificate of qualification.

Sec. 3. 4 MRSA §805-A, sub-§3, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. B, §23, is amended to read:

3. Admission within one year of passing bar examination. ~~The~~ An applicant for admission by examination must be admitted to practice within one year from the ~~time~~ date that the applicant has been notified of that applicant's passing of the bar examination. This one-year period may be ~~enlarged~~ extended by successive one-year periods by a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court on motion for good cause shown during the period.

Sec. 4. 4 MRSA §805-A, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Admission within one year of applying for admission on motion. An applicant who is an attorney admitted to practice law in a state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia who meets the requirements for admission on motion under the Maine Bar Admission Rules must be admitted to practice within one year from the date that the board of bar examiners receives the applicant's application. This period may be extended by a 6-month period by the board of bar examiners pursuant to the regulations of the board of bar examiners and then by successive one-year periods by a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court on motion for good cause shown during the 6-month period or any succeeding one-year period.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 142

H.P. 184 - L.D. 286

An Act to Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Local Central Administrative Offices

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§1, ¶C, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 676, Pt. A, §46, is amended by amending subparagraph (10) to read:

(10) Costs associated with broadband and fiber optics expansion projects, including preparation, planning, engineering and other related costs in addition to the construction costs of those projects. If an area within a municipality or plantation is unserved with respect to broadband service, as defined by the ConnectMaine Authority as provided in Title 35-A, section 9204-A, subsection 1, broadband and fiber optics expansion projects may serve residential or other nonbusiness or non-commercial areas in addition to business or commercial areas within the municipality or plantation; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§1, ¶C, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 676, Pt. A, §46, is amended by amending subparagraph (11) to read:

(11) Costs associated with the operation and financial support of:

(a) Affordable housing in the municipality or plantation to serve ongoing economic development efforts, including the further development of the downtown tax increment financing districts; and

(b) Housing programs and services to assist those who are experiencing homelessness in the municipality or plantation as defined in the municipality's or plantation's development program; and

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§1, ¶C, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 676, Pt. A, §46, is amended by enacting a new subparagraph (12) to read:

(12) Up to 50% of the capital costs related to the construction or renovation of a municipality's or plantation's central administrative office, the need for which is related to general economic development within the municipality or plantation, not to exceed 15% of the captured assessed value of the development district;

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 148, §4, is further amended to read:

2. Unauthorized project costs. Except as provided in subsection 1, paragraph C, ~~subparagraph~~ subparagraphs (9) and (12) and subsection 1, paragraph D, the commissioner may not approve as a project cost the cost of facilities, buildings or portions of buildings used predominantly for the general conduct of government or for public recreational purposes, including, but not limited to, city halls and other headquarters of government where the governing body meets regularly, courthouses, jails and other state and local government office buildings, recreation centers, athletic fields and swimming pools.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 143

H.P. 246 - L.D. 395

An Act to Expand Funding Sources Within the Public Utilities Commission for Intervenor and Participant Funding

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §117, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2011, c. 27, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) To supplement the telecommunications education access fund established pursuant to section 7104-B; ~~or~~

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §117, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2011, c. 27, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) To supplement any other program or fund that the commission determines would benefit customers affected or potentially affected by the violation; ~~or~~

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §117, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2011, c. 27, §2, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (6) to read:

(6) To supplement available funding sources for intervenor and participant funding pursuant to section 1310-A, subsection 2.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §1310-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 736, §2, is amended to read:

§1310-A. Intervenor and participant funding

1. Qualification for funding. Consistent with rules adopted by the commission pursuant to subsection 3, the commission may order or provide funding in accordance with subsection 2 to an intervenor in an adjudicatory proceeding or a participant in a nonadjudicatory commission proceeding upon a finding that:

A. The position of the intervenor or participant is not adequately represented by the Office of the Public Advocate or commission staff;

B. The intervenor or participant is likely to substantially contribute to the proceeding and to assist in the resolution of the issues raised in the proceeding; and

C. Participation in the proceeding by the intervenor or participant would impose a significant financial hardship on the intervenor or participant.

2. Funding sources. If the commission finds pursuant to subsection 1 that an intervenor or participant in a commission proceeding qualifies for funding, the commission may, except as provided in subsection 2-A and consistent with rules adopted by the commission pursuant to subsection 3:

A. Order a utility involved in the commission proceeding to compensate the intervenor or participant. Compensation provided by a utility under this paragraph may be recovered in rates; or

B. Provide compensation to the intervenor or participant from the Public Utilities Commission Regulatory Fund established pursuant to section 116, administrative penalties and filing fees, subject to the commission's determination that funds are available for that purpose.

2-A. Water utility exception. If the commission finds, pursuant to subsection 1, that an intervenor or participant in a commission proceeding involving a water utility qualifies for funding, the commission may, consistent with rules adopted by the commission, provide compensation to the intervenor or participant only from administrative penalties within the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund in accordance with