

# 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**

**Sec. 2. Stakeholder group on airboat noise issues.** The Commissioner of Marine Resources and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, referred to in this section as "the commissioners," shall reconvene the stakeholder group convened pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 166 and extended by Public Law 2021, chapter 585, referred to in this section as "the stakeholder group," to continue its discussions on issues related to airboat noise.

By January 15, 2025, the commissioners shall report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources and inland fisheries and wildlife matters the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group, including any recommended legislation. After receiving the report, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters may report out a bill relating to airboats to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 210  
H.P. 153 - L.D. 232**

**An Act to Amend the Laws  
Governing Bonding  
Restrictions for School  
Administrative Units**

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1311, sub-§2, ¶C,** as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

C. Each issue of bonds ~~shall~~ must mature in substantially equal annual installments so that the first installment ~~shall be~~ is payable not later than 2 years and the last installment not later than ~~25~~ 30 years after the date of issue.

**Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1490, sub-§2, ¶C,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. XXXX, §13, is amended to read:

C. Each issue of bonds must mature in substantially equal annual installments so that the first installment is payable not later than 2 years and the last installment not later than ~~25~~ 30 years after the date of issue.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 211  
S.P. 113 - L.D. 247**

**An Act Regarding  
Replacement Candidates  
Under the Maine Clean  
Election Act**

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

**Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §27, is further amended to read:

**1. Declaration of intent.** A participating candidate shall file a declaration of intent to seek certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate and to comply with the requirements of this chapter. The declaration of intent must be filed with the commission prior to or during the qualifying period, except as provided in subsection 11 or 11-A, according to forms and procedures developed by the commission. Qualifying contributions collected more than 5 business days before the declaration of intent has been filed will not be counted toward the eligibility requirements in subsection 3 or 3-A.

**Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 2009, c. 363, §4, is further amended to read:

**4. Filing with commission.** A participating candidate must submit qualifying contributions, receipt and acknowledgement forms, proof of verification of voter registration and a seed money report to the commission during the qualifying period according to procedures developed by the commission, except as provided under subsection 11 or 11-A.

**Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§11,** as enacted by IB 1995, c. 1, §17, is amended to read:

**11. Other procedures.** The commission shall establish by rule procedures for qualification, certification, disbursement of fund revenues and return of unspent fund revenues for races involving special elections; or recounts, vacancies, withdrawals or replacement candidates.

**Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§11-A** is enacted to read:

**11-A. Vacancies, withdrawals or replacement candidates.** If a candidate dies, withdraws or is disqualified before an election, the qualifying period for any replacement candidate begins when the Secretary of State receives a notice of withdrawal or declares a vacancy, whichever occurs earlier. The commission shall establish by rule the end of the qualifying period for a replacement candidate and procedures for certification, disbursement of fund revenues and return of unspent fund revenues for races involving vacancies.

withdrawals or replacement candidates. Qualifying contributions collected by a replacement candidate under this subsection may not be deposited into the fund until the replacement candidate has been nominated and, if the replacement candidate is not officially nominated, the commission shall return the qualifying contributions to the contributors, unless the contributor authorizes the deposit of the qualifying contribution into the fund. Rules of the commission adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1126**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 465, §7, is further amended to read:

**§1126. Commission to adopt rules**

The commission shall adopt rules to ensure effective administration of this chapter. These rules must include but ~~must~~ may not be limited to procedures for obtaining qualifying contributions, certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate, circumstances involving special elections, ~~vacancies~~, recounts, ~~withdrawals or replacements~~, collection of revenues for the fund, distribution of fund revenue to certified candidates, return of unspent fund disbursements, disposition of equipment purchased with clean election funds and compliance with the Maine Clean Election Act. Rules of the commission required by this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~H-A~~ 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 212**

**H.P. 187 - L.D. 289**

**An Act to Amend the Laws  
Governing the Advisory  
Committee on the Fund to  
Address PFAS Contamination**

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§2-I**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. XX, §1, is amended to read:

**2-I.**

Agriculture on the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination	Advisory Committee Expenses and Legislative Per Diem and Expenses for Legislators/Expenses Only for Other Members	7 MRSA §320-L
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**Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §320-L, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. XX, §2, is amended to read:

The Advisory Committee on the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination is established pursuant to Title 5,

section 12004-I, subsection 2-I to make recommendations to the department regarding administration of the fund ~~and to report to the Legislature~~. In order to develop recommendations for the department, the advisory committee may form working groups that include and seek input from subject matter experts from the public and private sectors to deliberate issues relating to the purposes of the fund as described in section 320-K, subsection 4, including, but not limited to, health monitoring, short-term financial aid for farmers, research priorities, solar siting, long-term environmental monitoring and land acquisition.

**Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §320-L, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. XX, §2, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The 7 members of the public appointed by the commissioner serve on the advisory committee for terms of 3 years. Members may be appointed for consecutive terms. Members who are Legislators are appointed for the duration of the legislative terms of office for which they were appointed, except that at the end of the term, members who are Legislators continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

**Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §320-L, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. XX, §2, is amended to read:

**3. Reports Proceedings of the advisory committee.** The advisory committee shall hold at least 2 public hearings annually to seek input from the public on efforts to meet the purposes of the fund. All proceedings of the advisory committee are public proceedings within the meaning of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1. Notwithstanding Title 1, section 403, subsection 6, all records of proceedings of the advisory committee are public and subject to the requirements of Title 1, section 403, subsection 2. ~~The advisory committee shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental matters annually, beginning March 1, 2023, on the input from subject matter experts under subsection 1 and members of the public on issues relating to the purposes and the use of the fund. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environmental matters may report out legislation related to each annual report to the Legislature in the session when the report is received.~~

**Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF DACF Administration 0401**

Initiative: Provides allocations to reimburse expenses of advisory committee members.