

# 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**

paragraph B serves for a term of 3 years. Terms must be staggered so that approximately ~~one-third~~ 1/3 of the council is renewed each calendar year. If a member is unable to complete the term, the commissioner shall appoint a member from the same category of members listed in subsection 2, paragraph B as the member who vacated the council to serve out the unexpired portion of the term. ~~The commissioner shall determine how the council is to choose a chair and for how long the chair is to serve.~~ The council shall annually elect a chair and vice chair from among its members, each of whom serves a term of one year.

**Sec. 7. 23 MRSA §4209-A, sub-§4-A,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 211, §2, is amended to read:

**4-A. Meetings and deliberations.** The council shall meet ~~at the call of the chair~~ no less than ~~once~~ 3 times per year ~~at the call of the chair~~. The council may form subcommittees and adopt bylaws and other policies to effectively govern its the council's proceedings.

**Sec. 8. 23 MRSA §4209-A, sub-§5,** as amended by PL 2019, c. 211, §2, is further amended to read:

**5. Report.** The council shall report on its deliberations and any recommendations by March 1st of each odd-numbered year to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters and health and human services matters. The report must include:

A. An assessment of the level of public transportation services and infrastructure provided to the public in each geographic region;

B. Recommendations for the level of service and supporting infrastructure that should be provided and, an estimate of the cost of providing those services and supporting infrastructure and a recommendation for any necessary additional funding; and

D. A progress report on ~~recommendations contained in~~ the implementation of the most recent statewide strategic transit plan for the department as well as the quinquennial locally coordinated plan for regional transit under section 4209, subsection 2.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 320**

**H.P. 1013 - L.D. 1568**

**An Act to Protect Access to Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes**

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

**Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §674, sub-§1, ¶B,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 447, §14, is further amended to read:

B. Interferes with a voter attempting to cast a vote, including by knowingly blocking or attempting to block a voter's access to a secured drop box;

**Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §752-B, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

**3-A. Access to secured drop box.** During the absentee voting period, to the extent possible, a municipality shall ensure that a path to each secured drop box is clear of all barriers.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 321**

**S.P. 622 - L.D. 1591**

**An Act to Promote Economic Reuse of Contaminated Land Through Clean Energy Development**

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

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§11,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 477, §1, is amended to read:

**11. Report; ~~Class IA resource and thermal renewable energy credit portfolio requirements.~~** By March 31, 2024 and every 3 years thereafter, the ~~commission~~ Governor's Energy Office shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters based on a review, conducted in consultation with the ~~Governor's Energy Office commission,~~ of the status and impacts of the implementation of the portfolio requirements for ~~Class IA resources under subsection~~ subsections 3, 3-A, 3-B and thermal renewable energy credits under subsection 3-C. The review must be completed through a public process and must include consideration of impacts of these renewable portfolio requirements on energy prices and assessment of benefits, including, but not limited to, on greenhouse gas emissions and the economy of the State. ~~The report required under this subsection may be submitted in conjunction with the report required under subsection 3-A, paragraph C.~~ After reviewing the report required under this subsection, the committee may report out legislation regarding renewable portfolio requirements.

**Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§12** is enacted to read:

**12. Standard-offer service provider.** In accordance with section 3210-J, subsection 4, a standard-offer service provider may satisfy the requirements of this section using renewable energy credits procured