

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

effective date later than January 1, 2024, in which case the effective date in that direct initiative applies.

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

Effective July 9, 2023.

**CHAPTER 402
H.P. 613 - L.D. 966**

An Act to Align the Automobile Title Requirements with Those of Antique Automobiles

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §652, sub-§13, as amended by PL 2009, c. 435, §10, is further amended to read:

~~13. Certain automobiles, commercial vehicles and vehicles~~ **Vehicles more than 25 years old.** ~~Automo-~~ **biles and all over-the-road commercial vehicles with a model year prior to 1995** ~~Vehicles more than 25 years old,~~ **except when the Secretary of State determines it is in the best interest of the State and the applicant to issue a title to a vehicle with a model year prior to 1995 more than 25 years old;**

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for computer programming updates.

HIGHWAY FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$7,271	\$0
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$7,271	\$0

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 403
S.P. 581 - L.D. 1463**

An Act to Amend the Definition of "Farming" Under the Motor Vehicle Laws to Include Equines Not Raised for Racing

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§17-A is enacted to read:

17-A. Commercial track. "Commercial track" has the same meaning as in Title 8, section 275-A, subsection 1.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§23, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

23. Farming. "Farming" means engaging in farming in all its branches and the cultivation and tillage of the soil as a livelihood and includes dairying; raising livestock, equines not raised for racing at a commercial track, freshwater fish, fur-bearing animals or poultry; producing, cultivating, growing and harvesting fruit, produce or floricultural or horticultural commodities; or any practices on a farm that are incident to or in conjunction with these farming operations. For the purposes of this Title, "farming" does not include forestry, or the growing of timber or the operation of a farm for recreational activity.

Sec. 3. Report. By November 6, 2024, the Secretary of State shall provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters that describes the financial impact to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles from including "equines not raised for racing at a commercial track" in the definition of "farming" in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 23. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may submit legislation relating to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 404
S.P. 677 - L.D. 1690**

An Act Regarding Ongoing Absentee Voting and Tracking of Absentee Ballots

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §753-A, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. UUUU, §3 and affected by §7, is amended to read:

8. Application for ongoing absentee voter status. ~~A voter who will be at least 65 years of age by the next election or who self-identifies as having a disability~~ **may apply for status as an ongoing absentee voter. Each qualified applicant must automatically receive an absentee ballot for each ensuing statewide election, municipal election and any other election for which the voter is entitled to vote and need not submit a separate request for each election.**

A. An application for status as an ongoing absentee voter must be made by a voter using procedures designed by the Secretary of State. ~~These procedures~~