

# 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**

a blue star representing the North Star on the side of the plate; or

(2) Blue identification numbers and letters with no other features.

E. The Secretary of State shall devise, with the advice of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters, a numbering system suitable for a new general issue of registration plates.

**Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §451, sub-§6**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 645, Pt. C, §3, is further amended to read:

**6. Plates to be manufactured at ~~State Prison~~ Bolduc Correctional Facility.** The Secretary of State or the duly designated official in charge of vehicle registration shall purchase and cause to be installed at the ~~State Prison~~ Bolduc Correctional Facility the necessary equipment and materials for the production of all vehicle registration plates used in the State. Only plates that ~~can not~~ cannot be produced at the ~~prison~~ Bolduc Correctional Facility and plates for which anticipated demand is below a minimum number determined by the Secretary of State may be purchased for state use.

The Warden of the State Prison has charge of operations at the ~~State Prison~~ Bolduc Correctional Facility relative to the manufacture of all plates made for the State. The Warden of the State Prison, with the consent of the Secretary of State, may employ for limited periods of time a supervisor for the purpose of instructing ~~inmates~~ residents in the operation of making such plates.

For purposes of this subsection, "resident" means an individual who resides in the Bolduc Correctional Facility.

**Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §461, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 352, §1, is further amended to read:

**1. Plate issue year.** In a year in which new registration plates are issued, the Secretary of State shall reserve ~~until July 1st for one year~~ the same registration number for the succeeding registration year for a person who notifies in writing the Secretary of State ~~prior to May 1st~~ of that person's desire to retain that registration number. The fee for retention of the same registration number is \$25.

The Secretary of State may issue a facsimile plate that is valid for a 90-day period during production of a reserved plate. A facsimile plate must be attached to the rear plate bracket.

~~If a person does not have a vehicle to register on May 1st, a registration number may be held for a maximum of 2 registration years by depositing with the Secretary of State \$25 for each year. This fee is not refundable and may not be applied against the registration fee.~~

~~All numbers other than those reserved must be released and may be issued after July 1st 6 months after the plate issue is complete.~~

~~A person wishing to select a number out of rotation may do so by paying the registration fee and a reserved number fee of \$25.~~

**Sec. 6. Report on new registration plates.**

The Secretary of State shall evaluate how frequently new registration plates should be issued. By January 15, 2024, the Secretary of State shall report findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

**Sec. 7. Funding.**

The Secretary of State shall implement the new general issue of registration plates under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 451, subsection 1-A, including project contractor costs; technology and programming costs; plate material, production and manufacturing costs; and mailing costs, with up to \$7,000,000 in available prior year balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of the Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, Highway Fund account as authorized for this purpose in Public Law 2023, chapter 50, Part B. The funds may be allotted by financial order upon recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 422**

**S.P. 38 - L.D. 46**

**An Act to Amend the Statutory Balance Limit on the Finance Authority of Maine's Loan Insurance Reserves**

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1511**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. F, §1, is further amended to read:

**§1511. Loan Insurance Reserve**

The State Controller may, at the close of each fiscal year, as the next priority after the transfers authorized pursuant to section 1507, transfer from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to the Loan Insurance Reserve amounts as may be available from time to time, up to an amount of \$1,000,000 per year after the transfers have been made pursuant to section 1507. The balance of this reserve must be paid to the Finance Authority of Maine if such payment does not cause the balance in the reserve fund maintained by the authority, when added to amounts held in the Finance Authority of Maine Mortgage Insurance Fund that are not committed

or encumbered for another purpose, to exceed \$40,000,000 \$50,000,000. Any balance in the Loan Insurance Reserve is appropriated for this purpose.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 423  
H.P. 37 - L.D. 62**

**An Act to Require Antipinch Sensors on School Bus Doors**

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

**Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2304, sub-§2, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

A. One door on the right side near the front for ordinary exits and entrances, which must be equipped with technology to prevent the door from closing on a person's limb or other body part if the school bus was manufactured in 2025 or later; and

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 424  
H.P. 55 - L.D. 87**

**An Act to Permit Emergency Funding for Food Banks When a State of Emergency Is Declared**

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

**9. Emergency funding for nonprofit food banks.** During a state of emergency declared in accordance with Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1 that exceeds 10 days, the Governor, in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, may distribute up to \$400,000 from the stabilization fund to nonprofit entities, including food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens, that provide or distribute food to low-income, indigent or unemployed individuals or households without charge. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall adopt rules to prescribe the manner in which the funds distributed under this subsection must be disbursed. The commissioner may leverage funds distributed under this subsection to match any relevant federal funding available for qualifying food programs in the State. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as described in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The Governor may not suspend under Title 37-B,

section 742, subsection 1, paragraph C, subparagraph (1) rules adopted under this subsection.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 425  
H.P. 96 - L.D. 155**

**An Act Regarding Community-based Services for Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System**

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §19132, sub-§9**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 450, §7, is amended to read:

**9. Program implementation and oversight.** Initiate, implement and oversee programs, policies and services consistent with the purposes of this chapter; ~~and~~

**Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §19132, sub-§10**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 450, §7, is amended to read:

**10. Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council.** Oversee the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council, established under section 24051, and direct a representative of the cabinet to meet at least once yearly with the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council and consult with one or more state-designated groups representing youth issues regarding goals selected by the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council; and

**Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §19132, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

**11. Coordination across state agencies.** Establish a working group that includes the Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services to promote coordinated policies, finances, programs and service delivery systems to support juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. The working group shall conduct a review of other states in regard to best practices and organizational structures for juvenile justice services.

**Sec. 4. 34-A MRSA §7009** is enacted to read:

**§7009. Publication of data**

By February 15, 2024, the department shall develop and publish on its publicly accessible website data regarding the number of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. The data must be updated monthly and include information regarding the numbers of juveniles referred, diverted, detained, placed on probation, ordered to serve a period of confinement and committed to the department. The department shall