

# 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**

B. The law enforcement officer had developed the disease or had suffered the injury that resulted in death within 6 months of having participated in law enforcement activities or in a training or drill that involved law enforcement activities.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 446**

**H.P. 727 - L.D. 1155**

**An Act to Address Legislative Salaries**

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

**Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 2, §2, is further amended to read:

Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first Wednesday of December 2000 ~~and thereafter~~ until the day before the first Wednesday of December 2024, is entitled to \$10,815 in the first year and \$7,725 in the 2nd year of each biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of retirement benefits from the federal Social Security Administration files a written request with the Executive Director of the Legislative Council within one week after the biennium commences, the Legislator is entitled to \$9,270 in each year of the biennium. Beginning with the first Wednesday of December 2024, each member of the Senate and House of Representatives is entitled to \$25,000 in the first year and \$20,000 in the 2nd year of each biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of retirement benefits from the federal Social Security Administration files a written request with the Executive Director of the Legislative Council within one week after the biennium commences, the Legislator is entitled to \$22,500 in each year of the biennium. Each member of the Senate and the House of Representatives must receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary, except that the percentage increase may not exceed 5% in any year, and except that the percentage increase may not exceed 3% beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Beginning December 1, 2001, the salary for each legislative session must be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the most recently concluded fiscal year; except that a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature, and except that a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature and the First Regular Session and the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, and any percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the fiscal years

ending June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013 may not be applied to the base salary. In addition, each Legislator is entitled to be paid mileage for travel at each legislative session to and from that Legislator's place of abode at a rate of 55¢ per mile or the federal standard mileage rate, whichever is lower, the mileage to be determined by the most reasonable direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid for travel on the Maine Turnpike as long as they have a receipt for payment of the tolls, such tolls to be reimbursed when Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and from sessions of the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee assignments. Each Legislator is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and those amounts of salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine during the session, and the balance at the end of the session.

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

**LEGISLATURE**

**Legislature 0081**

Initiative: Provides funding for the costs of increasing Legislator salaries starting with the 132nd Legislature to \$25,000 in the first year of each biennium and to \$20,000 in the 2nd year of each biennium.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,660,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,660,000

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 447**

**H.P. 777 - L.D. 1229**

**An Act to Provide Information to Parents Involved in the Child Protective Services System and Ensure Funding in the Child Protective Services Contingency Fund**

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4004, sub-§1, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 586, §2, is further amended to read:

D. Establishing and maintaining a Child Protective Services Contingency Fund, which is a nonlapsing fund, to provide temporary assistance to families to help them provide proper care for their children;

**Sec. 2. Contract requirements.** The Department of Health and Human Services shall contract with an entity to provide free virtual classes conducted in real

time with information, resources and support to parents who are involved in the child protective services system. The classes must be facilitated by parents who have experience with the child protective services system or who have navigated multiple complex systems. The contracted entity must conduct activities that maximize outreach to parents that qualify, promote the classes to parents and providers of services to such parents and provide one-on-one follow-up with parents who participate in the classes.

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Office of Child and Family Services - District 0452**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to contract with an entity to provide free virtual classes that provide information, resources and support to parents involved in the child protective services system, facilitated by parents who have experience with the child protective services system or who have navigated multiple complex systems.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$200,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 448**

**H.P. 1206 - L.D. 1881**

**An Act Regarding  
Compensation Fees and  
Related Conservation Efforts  
to Protect Soils and Wildlife  
and Fisheries Habitat from  
Solar and Wind Energy  
Development and High-impact  
Electric Transmission Lines  
Under the Site Location of  
Development Laws**

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

**Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §484-C is enacted to read:**

**§484-C. Solar energy compensation fee for impact to high-value agricultural land**

**1. Compensation fee.** The department shall establish a solar energy compensation program in accordance with this section. The program must require a person who obtains approval under this article to construct or cause to be constructed a solar energy devel-

opment located on high-value agricultural land as defined in section 3201, subsection 1 to pay a compensation fee or other form of compensation in accordance with this section for any portion of the development, including associated facilities, that is located on high-value agricultural land, referred to in this section as "the impacted area."

**2. Calculating fee.** The compensation fee under this section must be calculated by the department, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, using the square footage of the impacted area and applying a per square foot compensation fee set by the department. The fee must be based upon the fair market value of the impacted area and include reasonable costs, including stewardship costs, for a compensation project, as defined by the department by rule, that is completed in whole or in part with the compensation fee. Square footage of the impacted area that is already subject to the compensation fee under section 484-D may not be included in calculating the compensation fee under this subsection. The compensation fee may be reduced by the department, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, if the applicant proposes mitigation strategies, including, but not limited to, dual-use agricultural and solar production. The fee may be increased by the department, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, based on the severity of the adverse impacts on the impacted area. For purposes of this subsection, "dual-use agricultural and solar production" means the productive use of land for agricultural production and solar energy production in accordance with standards established by rule adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation with the department and the Governor's Energy Office.

**3. Collection of fees.** All compensation fees collected under this section must be deposited in an account in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and must be distributed at the discretion of the commissioner for the purpose of farmland conservation and solar mitigation projects. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, eligible investment earnings credited to this account become part of the assets of the account and any balance remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year must be carried forward for the next fiscal year.

**4. Conservation option.** The department shall allow an applicant to meet the requirements of this section by conserving other land in accordance with this subsection. The amount of land conserved must be equal in square footage to the impacted area. The conserved land must be subject to a perpetual conservation easement or fee ownership by a public, quasi-public or municipal organization or a private, nonprofit organization that ensures the land remains available for agricultural production. An applicant who wishes to meet the re-