

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

service provider's rate or 200% of the average of the Medicare rate for basic life support services and the Medicare rate for advanced life support services, whichever is less, plus any adjustment required by paragraph C.

B. If the ambulance service provider is an out-of-network provider, the carrier shall reimburse the ambulance service provider at the ambulance service provider's rate or 180% of the average of the Medicare rate for basic life support services and the Medicare rate for advanced life support services, whichever is less, plus any adjustment required by paragraph C.

C. If the ambulance service provider is located in a rural or super rural area as designated by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and eligible for additional Medicare reimbursement for services that were provided to a Medicare enrollee, the carrier shall increase the reimbursement to that ambulance service provider in the same amount as the additional Medicare reimbursement.

D. If, on the effective date of this subsection, an ambulance service provider's rate for ambulance services is below 200% of the average of the Medicare rate for basic life support and advanced life support services, the ambulance service provider may not increase the rate for that service by more than 5% annually.

2. Network participation; standard contract. A carrier shall offer a standard contract to all ambulance service providers willing to participate in the carrier's provider network with the following provisions:

A. The reimbursement rate paid for ambulance services conforms to the requirements of subsection 1.

~~This paragraph is repealed December 31, 2023;~~

B. The contract term is for a minimum of 24 months;

C. The contract may be terminated as long as the party seeking to terminate the contract provides at least 180 days' prior notice; and

D. The contract provides that an ambulance service provider has a minimum of 120 days to submit a claim.

3. Exemption. This section does not apply to air ambulance services.

4. Medical necessity. A carrier shall consider the requirements of the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services related to medical necessity of ambulance services when establishing the carrier's own policies and

guidelines related to the medical necessity and reasonableness of covered services provided by ambulance service providers.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §88, sub-§2, ¶L, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 241, §5 and reallocated by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §113, is amended to read:

L. The board shall establish by rule a program for collecting and reporting cost and performance metrics related to emergency medical treatment services, including ambulance services. The cost and performance metrics for ambulance services adopted in rule must include, at a minimum, data on the volume of services provided per capita and per square mile of geographic area, the type of entity, the payer mix, the impact on length of stay in a health care facility due to lack of available ambulance transport, demographics on personnel and level of licensure, the number of vacancies and the number of volunteer hours dedicated to emergency medical services. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF
Emergency Medical Services 0485**

Initiative: Establishes one limited-period Management Analyst I position and provides appropriations for related costs to collect and report cost and performance information related to emergency services. This position begins November 1, 2023 and ends June 7, 2025.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$51,878	\$82,151
All Other	\$5,000	\$5,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$56,878	\$87,151

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 469

S.P. 640 - L.D. 1608

**An Act to Address Teacher
Shortages Through Financial
Assistance and Career
Advancement Opportunities**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10911 is enacted to read:

§10911. Report on Maine teacher residency program

By December 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the university shall submit a report to the joint standing

committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the status of a Maine teacher residency program administered by the university.

Sec. 2. Maine Education Policy Research Institute to study career ladders for educators. The Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall study the development of career ladders for educators. The study must include:

1. A review of career ladders for educators developed in other states, including Maryland;
2. An analysis of the options for developing a teacher residency certificate and advanced teacher certificates, such as distinguished teacher certificates and lead teacher certificates;
3. Ways to diversify the educator workforce; and
4. Educator recruitment and retention best practices.

By December 6, 2023, the institute shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to support the Maine Teacher Residency Program at the University of Southern Maine.

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

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 470

H.P. 1068 - L.D. 1670

An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food and Forest Economy by Funding the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund and Amending Related Provisions of Law

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §320-C, sub-§6, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 483, Pt. KK, §2, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

- (2) Recommending program changes and improvements; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §320-C, sub-§6, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 483, Pt. KK, §2, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

- (3) Preparing a comprehensive report, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community Development and other appropriate agencies and organizational partners, on the performance, use and sustainability of funds and supporting programs of the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund to submit to the commissioner; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §320-C, sub-§6, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 483, Pt. KK, §2, is amended by enacting subparagraph (4) to read:

- (4) Collaborating with the Department of Economic and Community Development and other appropriate agencies and organizational partners to ensure that investment objectives are appropriately targeted and not duplicative and to establish various grant and loan instruments as part of the fund.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund N383

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support public-private partnerships to facilitate strategic investments in the State's agricultural, food and forest products processing and manufacturing industries. These funds are nonlapsing.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 471

S.P. 674 - L.D. 1687

An Act to Improve Geographic Information System Data Acquisition and Maintenance

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