

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

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:

Sec. 1. Department of Administrative and Financial Services review; report. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall review the mission, duties, powers, organizational structure and similar aspects of the following 3 entities established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 163: the Office of Information Technology, the Office of Geographic Information Systems and the Maine Library of Geographic Information. The purpose of the review, which must be done within existing resources, is to determine whether the current organizational structure of these entities provides state agencies, the Legislature and the public with relevant, up-to-date information in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. The department shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by December 31, 2023 with details of the review and any recommendations to best achieve the function and purpose of these entities.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 472

H.P. 1118 - L.D. 1739

An Act to Extend Development District Tax Increment Financing Districts

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5224, sub-§2, ¶H, as repealed and replaced by PL 2019, c. 140, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) A development district that is a tax increment financing district may not exceed a total of 30 tax years beginning with the tax year in which the designation of the development district is effective pursuant to section 5226, subsection 3 or, if specified in the development program, the subsequent tax year; ~~and, except that, during the 10 calendar years after the general effective date of laws enacted during the First Special Session of the 131st Legislature, a district may be extended an additional 20 years if the district uses at least 75% of tax increment financing revenue for affordable housing projects or transit-oriented development. A district that is extended under this subparagraph may continue to use the original assessed value of the district.~~

For purposes of this subparagraph, "affordable housing" means a decent, safe and sanitary dwelling, apartment or other living accommodation for a household whose income does not exceed 120% of the median income for the

area as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8; "transit-oriented development" means a type of development that links land use with transit facilities by combining housing with complementary public uses, including jobs, retail or services establishments that are located in transit-served nodes or corridors; and "original assessed value" means the taxable assessed value of a district as of March 31st of the tax year preceding the year in which it was designated by a municipality and approved by the commissioner under section 5226, subsection 2; and

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 473

H.P. 1131 - L.D. 1767

An Act to Require the University of Maine to Provide Education Regarding Meat and Poultry Processing

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §197 is enacted to read:

§197. Meat processing workforce development and education

The University of Maine within available funding shall provide cooperative extension education regarding meat and poultry processing, including quality control training and hazard analysis critical control point training and plan development for meat and poultry processors.

Sec. 2. 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 for cooperative extension education regarding meat and poultry processing, including quality control training and hazard analysis critical control point training and plan development for meat and poultry processors.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$142,500
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$142,500

See title page for effective date.