

# 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**

emergency medical services person as defined in Title 32, section 83, subsection 12 who responds to emergency medical services calls from a municipality and who receives no compensation from the municipality other than injury and death benefits; and "volunteer municipal firefighter" has the same meaning as in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsection 5.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 479**

**H.P. 1176 - L.D. 1844**

**An Act to Support Emergency Housing Construction and Renovation Statewide by Creating a Matching Grant Program**

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4766 is enacted to read:

**§4766. Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program**

**1. Program established.** The Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the Maine State Housing Authority.

**2. Purpose.** The purpose of the program is to provide grants to qualified providers of emergency housing and shelter services for the construction, renovation or acquisition of a new or existing building to provide emergency housing and shelter services. Grant funds may also be used to cover the costs to lease a building to provide emergency housing and shelter services.

**3. Program requirements.** The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish program requirements, including, but not limited to, requiring that an applicant to the program:

A. Meet the eligibility requirements of existing programs within the Maine State Housing Authority that provide funding to reimburse shelter operators that provide emergency shelter services at a fixed location;

B. Provide emergency housing and housing navigation services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week in the building that is constructed, acquired, renovated or leased using grant funds; and

C. For requests greater than \$100,000, demonstrate that the applicant has secured funding from a source other than state funding to match the amount of the grant request on a one-to-one basis.

**4. Request for proposals; amount of grant.** The Maine State Housing Authority shall issue a request for

proposals to award grants under the program no later than January 1st of the year in which a grant will be issued and shall provide grants on an annual basis. When scoring requests for proposals, the Maine State Housing Authority shall award points favorably to applicants that propose to provide emergency housing and shelter services in geographic areas that are underserved and where the provision of those services could result in reducing the demand for emergency housing and shelter services in cities and towns in this State that serve as hubs for services for persons experiencing homelessness and in need of emergency shelter or that have a population of persons experiencing homelessness disproportionate to the housed population of the city or town. The maximum grant awarded to an applicant is determined by the Maine State Housing Authority.

**5. Fund.** The Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program Fund, referred to in this subsection as "the fund," is established within the Maine State Housing Authority to fund grants under the program. The fund may receive money from appropriations, allocations, donations and other sources, public and private. The fund is interest-bearing, and interest earned by the fund is credited to the fund. Money in the fund does not lapse and carries over to the next fiscal year.

**6. Rules.** The Maine State Housing Authority shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**Sec. 2. Request for proposals.** No later than January 1, 2024, the Maine State Housing Authority shall issue a request for proposals for grants under the Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 4766, for the 2024 grant year under the program.

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

**HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

**Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program Fund N430**

Initiative: Provides one-time appropriations for grants to homeless service providers to construct, renovate or acquire new or existing buildings to house the homeless services.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$257,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$257,000</b>

**Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program Fund N430**

Initiative: Establishes ongoing base allocations to allow for the expenditure of funds if money is received from donations and other public or private sources.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500
<b>HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$257,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$500	\$257,500

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 480**

**H.P. 1191 - L.D. 1861**

**An Act to Reduce Chronic Student Absenteeism**

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 211, sub-c. 6** is enacted to read:

**SUBCHAPTER 6**

**CHRONIC ABSENCE**

**§5171. Chronically absent students**

**1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms having the following meanings.

A. "Absence" means an excused absence, unexcused absence or disciplinary absence, as those terms are defined by the state board by rule.

B. "Chronically absent student" means a student who is enrolled in a school under the jurisdiction of a school administrative unit and whose total number of absences at any time during a school year is equal to or greater than 10% of the total number of days that that student has been enrolled at that school during that school year.

C. "School chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of chronically absent students for a school in the previous school year divided by the total number of students enrolled in that school for that school year.

D. "Unit chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of chronically absent students under the jurisdiction of a school administrative unit in the previous school year divided by the total number of

students under the jurisdiction of that unit for that school year.

**2. School administrative unit.** A school administrative unit that:

A. Has a unit chronic absenteeism rate of 10% or higher shall establish an attendance review team under subsection 3 or establish a committee to review chronic absence for the school administrative unit;

B. Has under its jurisdiction a school with a school chronic absenteeism rate of 15% or higher shall establish an attendance review team under subsection 3 at that school;

C. Has under its jurisdiction more than one school with a school chronic absenteeism rate of 15% or higher shall establish an attendance review team under subsection 3 for the school administrative unit or at each such school; or

D. Has a unit chronic absenteeism rate of 10% or higher and has one or more schools under its jurisdiction with a school chronic absenteeism rate of 15% or higher shall establish an attendance review team under subsection 3 for the school administrative unit or at each such school.

**3. Attendance review teams.** An attendance review team established under this subsection may consist of school administrators, guidance counselors, school counselors, school social workers and teachers. An attendance review team is responsible for reviewing the cases of students who are truant and chronically absent students, discussing school interventions and community referrals for such students who are truant and chronically absent students and making any additional recommendations for such students who are truant and chronically absent students and their parents or guardians. An attendance review team shall meet at least monthly.

The attendance review teams established pursuant to this subsection must be established to address chronic absenteeism in the school administrative unit or at the school.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 481**

**S.P. 766 - L.D. 1895**

**An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources**

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

**Sec. 1. 23 MRSA c. 412, sub-c. 3** is enacted to read: