

# 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**

dations, including proposed legislation, for any necessary changes to the laws governing the beverage container redemption program to ensure the timely and successful implementation of any special commingling agreements pursuant to Title 38, section 3107, subsection 1-B and the single commingling program operated by a commingling cooperative pursuant to Title 38, section 3107, subsection 3-B. The report may include additional recommendations for changes to the laws governing the beverage container redemption program determined necessary by the department.

**Sec. 42. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Administration - Environmental Protection 0251**

Initiative: Provides funding for technology management costs associated with 3 limited-period Environmental Specialist III positions.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$8,475	\$8,475
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,475</b>	<b>\$8,475</b>

**Maine Environmental Protection Fund 0421**

Initiative: Establishes 3 limited-period Environmental Specialist III positions and associated All Other costs beginning January 1, 2024 and ending June 7, 2025.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services	\$125,582	\$280,938
All Other	\$4,089	\$4,089
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$129,671</b>	<b>\$285,027</b>

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$138,146</b>	<b>\$293,502</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$138,146</b>	<b>\$293,502</b>

**Sec. 43. Effective date.** That section of this Act that enacts the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 3108-A and those sections of this Act that amend Title 36, section 112, subsection 8; Title 38, section 3102, subsection 16-A; Title 38, section 3106, subsection 5; and Title 38, section 3106, subsection 6 and that section of this Act that repeals Title 38, section 3108 and that section of this Act that repeals and replaces Title 38, section 3111, subsection 3 take effect October 15, 2024.

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.

**CHAPTER 483  
S.P. 835 - L.D. 2013**

**An Act to Address Abandoned  
Capital Credits Held by Rural  
Electrification Cooperatives**

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

**Sec. 1. 33 MRSA §2061, sub-§12,** as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

**12. Deposit or refund owed by a utility.** A deposit or refund, other than an abandoned capital credit as defined in Title 35-A, section 3503, subsection 2, paragraph A, owed to a subscriber by a utility, one year after the deposit or refund becomes payable;

**Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3503, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 1999, c. 398, Pt. A, §87 and affected by §§104 and 105, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

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

A. "Abandoned capital credit" means a deposit or refund owed to a member of a rural electrification cooperative as defined in section 3703, subsection 2 that is unclaimed by the member one year after the deposit or refund becomes payable.

B. "Governing body" means the governing body of a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility.

**Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3503, sub-§7** is enacted to read:

**7. Abandoned capital credits.** Abandoned capital credits must be used to provide assistance to low-income households in accordance with section 3214.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 484  
S.P. 263 - L.D. 595**

**An Act to Establish the  
Companion Animal  
Sterilization Program in the  
Maine Revised Statutes**

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

**Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §3907, sub-§9-B** is enacted to read:

**9-B. Cat.** "Cat" means a member of the genus and species known as *Felis catus*.