

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 3, 2024 to May 10, 2024

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
AUGUST 9, 2024

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2024

(4) Communicates to or about a person, consciously disregarding a substantial risk that the actor's conduct would cause a reasonable person to experience any of the effects identified in subsection 1, paragraph A.

"Course of conduct" also includes, but is not limited to, threats implied by conduct and gaining unauthorized access to personal, medical, financial or other identifying or confidential information.

Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §506, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 397, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. By means of telephone or electronic communication device the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly makes any comment, request, suggestion or proposal without the consent of the person called or contacted:

- (1) That is, in fact, obscene; or
- (2) With conscious disregard of a substantial risk that a reasonable person would find the comment, request, suggestion or proposal offensively coarse.

Violation of this paragraph is a Class E crime:

Sec. 4. 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 647, Pt. A, §3 and affected by Pt. B, §65, is amended to read:

B. Attempting to place or placing another in fear of bodily injury, ~~regardless of intent~~, through any course of conduct, including, but not limited to, threatening, harassing or tormenting behavior. When the course of conduct violates this paragraph based on the content of the actor's speech, the actor must have consciously disregarded a substantial risk that the speech would place a reasonable person in fear of bodily injury;

Sec. 5. 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 647, Pt. A, §3 and affected by Pt. B, §65, is amended to read:

E. Communicating to a person a threat to commit, or to cause to be committed, a crime of violence dangerous to human life against the person to whom the communication is made or another, ~~and~~ with conscious disregard of a substantial risk that the natural and probable consequence of the threat, whether or not that consequence in fact occurs, is to place the person to whom the threat is communicated, or the person against whom the threat is made, in reasonable fear that the crime will be committed;

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 6, 2024.

**CHAPTER 520
H.P. 423 - L.D. 646**

**An Act to Fully Reimburse
Municipalities for Lost
Revenue Under the Property
Tax Stabilization for Senior
Citizens Program**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, certain municipalities have not been fully reimbursed for lost revenue resulting from underfunding of the property tax stabilization for senior citizens program established pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 751 and amended by Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part S, section 10 to apply only to the property tax year beginning April 1, 2023; and

Whereas, the lost revenue may have an immediate and material effect on municipalities; and

Whereas, due to these immediate and material effects on municipalities, this legislation requires the State Controller to transfer funds in March and June of 2024; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Transfer to Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before March 1, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$15,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to fully reimburse municipalities for lost revenue under the property tax stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 6281 in the property tax year beginning April 1, 2023 only.

Sec. 2. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Property Tax Stabilization - Mandate program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$50,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Property Tax Stabilization - Mandate program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purposes of funding

the reimbursements to municipalities for the state-mandated costs related to implementation and administration of the property tax stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 6281.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Property Tax Stabilization Z368

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to fully reimburse municipalities for lost revenue under the property tax stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 6281.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$15,000,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$15,000,000	\$0

Property Tax Stabilization - Mandate Z369

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to reimburse municipalities for state-mandated costs related to implementation and administration of the property tax stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 6281.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$50,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$50,000	\$0

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$15,050,000	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$15,050,000	\$0

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 6, 2024.

**CHAPTER 521
H.P. 988 - L.D. 1533**

An Act to Provide for Consistent Billing Practices by Health Care Providers

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

Sec. 1. 24 MRSA §2332-E, as amended by PL 2003, c. 218, §1 and c. 469, Pt. D, §1 and affected by §9, is further amended to read:

§2332-E. Standardized claim forms

All nonprofit hospital or medical service organizations and nonprofit health care plans providing payment or reimbursement for diagnosis or treatment of a condition or a complaint by a licensed health care practitioner must accept the current standardized claim form for professional services approved by the Federal Government and submitted electronically. All nonprofit hospital or medical service organizations and nonprofit health care plans providing payment or reimbursement for diagnosis or treatment of a condition or a complaint by a licensed hospital must accept the current standardized claim form for professional or facility services, as applicable, approved by the Federal Government and submitted electronically, and any claims for facility services must identify the physical location, including hospital off-campus locations, where services are provided. A nonprofit hospital or medical service organization or nonprofit health care plan may not be required to accept a claim submitted on a form other than the applicable form specified in this section and may not be required to accept a claim that is not submitted electronically, except from a health care practitioner who is exempt pursuant to section 2985.

Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §1912, as amended by PL 2005, c. 97, §1, is further amended to read:

§1912. Standardized claim forms

All administrators who administer claims and who provide payment or reimbursement for diagnosis or treatment of a condition or a complaint by a licensed health care practitioner must accept the current standardized claim form for professional services approved by the Federal Government and submitted electronically. All administrators who administer claims and who provide payment or reimbursement for diagnosis or treatment of a condition or a complaint by a licensed hospital must accept the current standardized claim form for professional or facility services, as applicable, approved by the Federal Government and submitted electronically, and any claims for facility services must identify the physical location, including hospital off-campus locations, where services are provided. An administrator may not be required to accept a claim sub-