

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

**CHAPTER 526
H.P. 1314 - L.D. 2052**

**An Act to Provide Additional
Moose Hunting Opportunities
for Maine Youth Experiencing
Critical Illnesses**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§13, as amended by PL 2015, c. 136, §11 and affected by §12, is further amended to read:

13. Hunting adventure permits for children. Notwithstanding subsection 6, the commissioner may issue 2 5 moose permits to a nonprofit organization or organizations dedicated to providing hunting and fishing adventures to children under 21 years of age with life-threatening, critical or terminal illnesses. At least 3 of the permits issued under this subsection must be issued to an eligible nonprofit organization based in the State, and a child who receives a permit from that organization must be a resident. The commissioner may issue these permits upon written request by an eligible nonprofit organization or organizations but may not issue more than 2 5 permits in total for a calendar year. These permits are in addition to the moose hunting permits issued under subsection 2 for each wildlife management district and are at no cost to the organization.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 527
H.P. 1315 - L.D. 2053**

**An Act to Exempt Buildings
Used to Cultivate Crops from
the Maine Uniform Building
and Energy Code**

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶B-1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 391, §4, is amended by amending subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) That buildings used to house livestock ~~or~~, store harvested crops or cultivate crops are not subject to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. The exemption in this subparagraph does not include the cultivation of cannabis regulated under Title 22 or 28-B;

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 528
S.P. 884 - L.D. 2091**

**An Act Regarding Businesses'
and Consumers' Use of
Returnable, Reusable and
Refillable Containers for Food,
Beverages and Nonfood Items**

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §219-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 177, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §219-C is enacted to read:

§219-C. Returnable, reusable or refillable containers and packaging

1. Use permitted; rules and guidelines. The department shall ensure that its rules, established in accordance with the commissioner's rule-making authority in section 12, and guidelines:

A. Explicitly allow a business, on a voluntary basis, to allow consumers to supply their own containers or packaging for the purchase of:

- (1) Nonfood items;
- (2) Shelf-stable food items; and
- (3) Food other than shelf-stable food items as determined by the department by rule.

B. Explicitly allow a business, on a voluntary basis, to sell nonfood items, shelf-stable food items and other food to consumers in the State in returnable, reusable or refillable containers and packaging, which may be supplied by either the business or a 3rd party; and

C. Explicitly establish the right of a business to refuse any returnable, reusable or refillable container or packaging supplied by a consumer.

2. Reuse permitted. A returnable, reusable or refillable container or packaging returned by a consumer may be reclaimed by a business or a 3rd party, restored to standards for health and safety and reused in the packaging and selling of a nonfood item, a shelf-stable item or other food to the same or another consumer. The department shall provide technical assistance and education to businesses and consumers regarding best practices for the use and reuse of returnable, reusable or refillable containers.

For purposes of this section, "food" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 2152, subsection 4 and "business" means a business licensed by the department under Title 22, chapter 551.

See title page for effective date.