

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 622
H.P. 1202 - L.D. 1877**

**An Act to Reduce the Number
of Children Living in Deep
Poverty by Adjusting
Assistance for Low-income
Families**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3769-C, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. NNNNNN, §11, is amended to read:

C. Beginning October 1, ~~2017~~ 2024, the department shall increase the maximum amount of monthly TANF assistance by an amount equal to 20% of the maximum payments that were in effect on January 1, ~~2017~~ 2024 and shall increase the standard of need to maintain the same differential between the maximum payment and the standard of need that was in effect on January 1, ~~2017~~ 2024.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3769-C, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. NNNNNN, §11, is amended to read:

D. Beginning October 1, ~~2018~~ 2024 and for each year thereafter, the department shall increase the maximum amount of monthly TANF assistance by an amount equal to the increase, if any, in the cost of living and shall increase the standard of need to maintain the same differential between the maximum payment and the standard of need that was in effect on January 1, ~~2017~~ 2024. The increase in the cost of living for each year must equal the percentage increase, if any, in the federal supplemental security income program for that year.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 623
S.P. 971 - L.D. 2253**

**An Act to Authorize a
Stop-work Order Regarding an
Activity That Is Creating an
Immediate and Substantial
Adverse Impact to a Protected
Natural Resource**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §685-C, sub-§8-A is enacted to read:

8-A. Stop-work order. In accordance with the commission's delegated authority under Title 38, sections 480-E-1 and 480-R and notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the director of the commission finds that an activity located wholly within the jurisdiction of the commission is being performed in a manner that violates a law administered by the commission, a rule adopted by the commission or a term or condition of a permit or order issued by the commission and that the activity is creating an immediate and substantial adverse impact to a protected natural resource, as determined by the director, the director may issue a stop-work order pursuant to this subsection requiring the cessation of the activity in whole or in part. As used in this subsection, "protected natural resource" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 480-B, subsection 8.

A. A stop-work order under this subsection must be in writing and must identify:

- (1) The portion of the activity that must immediately cease;
- (2) The law, rule or term or condition of the permit or order that the activity violates;
- (3) The protected natural resource that is being substantially adversely impacted by the activity;
- (4) The duration for which the activity must be ceased;
- (5) The conditions under which the activity may resume, which must include, at a minimum, identification of the corrective actions necessary to restore the protected natural resource or remediate or abate the substantial adverse impacts to the protected natural resource from the activity and to prevent any further adverse impacts to the protected natural resource from the activity. Prior to the resumption of the activity subject to the stop-work order, the commission shall conduct a site inspection to assess compliance with the conditions and requirements of the order; and
- (6) The process by which the person to whom the order is directed may respond to the order, or request that the director rescind or modify the order, while the order is in effect.

B. The director shall deliver a stop-work order under this subsection to the person responsible for the activity or, if delivery cannot be made to that person, to that person's employee, contractor or agent or to the owner of the property on which the activity is occurring. The director shall also notify the town, plantation or, in the case of a township, the county commissioners of the county in which the activity is occurring regarding the issuance of the stop-work order.