

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

reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services.

C. Paragraph B does not apply if:

(1) The communication or information to be disclosed relates to an individual who is a plaintiff in a medical malpractice action and the health care practitioner, facility or state-designated statewide health information exchange from which the communication or information is requested is a defendant in the medical malpractice action;

(2) The communication or information to be disclosed is requested by a professional licensing board that licenses health care practitioners in this State and the request relates to and is made in connection with a complaint investigation. This subparagraph does not apply if the complaint is based solely on an allegation that a licensee of the board provided reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services that are legally protected health care activity or aiding and assisting legally protected health care activity within the licensee's scope of practice; or

(3) The communication or information to be disclosed is requested by the United States Department of Justice, a law enforcement agency of this State or a political subdivision of this State or any other federal agency or agency of this State that pursuant to statute is responsible for investigating abuse, neglect or exploitation and the request is made in connection with an investigation of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a child pursuant to the Child and Family Services and Child Protection Act or of an incapacitated or dependent adult pursuant to the Adult Protective Services Act.

D. This subsection may not be construed to impede the lawful disclosure of information to another health care practitioner or facility for diagnosis, treatment or care of individuals or to complete the responsibilities of a health care practitioner or facility that provides diagnosis, treatment or care of individuals or to impede the lawful disclosure of information to an insurer or payor related to the treatment provided by a health care practitioner or facility or to the payment or operations of a health care practitioner or facility.

PART G

Sec. G-1. Construction. This Act may not be construed to conflict with or in any way amend the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, chapter 58.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 649
H.P. 182 - L.D. 284**

**An Act to Implement the
Recommendations of the Maine
Workforce, Research,
Development and Student
Achievement Institute**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-I, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 450, §1, is amended to read:

6-I.

Economic Development	Maine Workforce, Research, Development and Student Achievement Institute	Not Authorized	5 MRSA §13120-T
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~~This subsection is repealed September 1, 2024.~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13120-T, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 450, §2, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 650
S.P. 162 - L.D. 355**

**An Act to Eliminate the
Cannabis Advisory
Commission**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§52-C, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 409, Pt. A, §1 and amended by PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 28-B MRSA c. 1, sub-c. 9, as amended, is repealed.

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

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Legislature 0081

Initiative: Deappropriates funds for the savings to the Legislature as a result of Legislators no longer serving on the eliminated Cannabis Advisory Commission.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	(\$880)	(\$880)
All Other	(\$1,370)	(\$1,370)

GENERAL FUND TOTAL (\$2,250) (\$2,250)

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 651
S.P. 179 - L.D. 372

An Act to Increase
Enforcement and
Accountability for Wage
Violations

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §53, as enacted by PL 1999,
c. 181, §1, is amended to read:

§53. Additional penalties

In addition to any penalties provided in chapter 7,
subchapters 1 to 4, the director may assess a forfeiture
fine against any an employer, officer, agent or other
person who that violates any provision of chapter 7,
subchapters 1 to 4 for each violation of those sub-
chapters. The forfeiture fine may not exceed \$1,000 or
the amount provided in law or rule as a penalty for the
specific violation, whichever is less. In addition, the di-
rector may order any employer, officer, agent or other
person that the director finds is in violation under chap-
ter 7, subchapters 1 to 4 or section 1312 to pay unpaid
wages determined to be due, as well as an additional
amount equal to twice the amount of unpaid wages as
liquidated damages and a reasonable rate of interest.
The Attorney General, upon complaint of the director,
shall institute a civil action to recover the forfeiture fine
and any unpaid wages, liquidated damages and interest.
Whether through private right of action, through order
of the director or through civil action of the Attorney
General, an employee may not receive payment more
than once for the same unpaid wages and liquidated
damages owed. Any amount civil fine or penalty recov-
ered must be deposited with the Treasurer of State. The
Department of Labor is authorized to receive the pay-
ment of unpaid wages, liquidated damages and interest
on behalf of an employee. The director must pay these
sums to the employee in their entirety. The director shall
adopt rules to govern the administration of the civil
money forfeiture fine or penalty provisions. The rules
must include a right of appeal by the employer and a
range of monetary assessments with consideration
given to the size of the employer's business, the good
faith of the employer, the gravity of the violation and
the history of previous violations. The rules adopted
pursuant to this section are major substantive rules pur-
suant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter H-A 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 652
H.P. 728 - L.D. 1156

An Act to Authorize a General
Fund Bond Issue to Promote
the Design, Development and
Maintenance of Trails for
Outdoor Recreation and Active
Transportation

Preamble. Two thirds of both Houses of the Leg-
islature deeming it necessary in accordance with the
Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 14 to
authorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of
Maine to provide funds as described in this Act,

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

Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds. The
Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of
the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf
of the State in an amount not exceeding \$30,000,000 for
the purposes described in section 5 of this Act. The
bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the
State. The bonds may not run for a period longer than
10 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds.

Sec. 2. Records of bonds issued; Treasurer
of State. The Treasurer of State shall ensure that an
account of each bond is kept showing the number of the
bond, the name of the successful bidder to whom sold,
the amount received for the bond, the date of sale and
the date when payable.

Sec. 3. Sale; how negotiated; proceeds ap-
propriated. The Treasurer of State may negotiate the
sale of the bonds by direction of the Governor, but no
bond may be loaned, pledged or hypothecated on behalf
of the State. The proceeds of the sale of the bonds,
which must be held by the Treasurer of State and paid
by the Treasurer of State upon warrants drawn by the
State Controller, are appropriated solely for the pur-
poses set forth in this Act. Any unencumbered balances
remaining at the completion of the project in this Act
lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used
for the retirement of general obligation bonds.

Sec. 4. Interest and debt retirement. The
Treasurer of State shall pay interest due or accruing
on any bonds issued under this Act and all sums coming
due for payment of bonds at maturity.

Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds
from General Fund bond issue. The proceeds of
the sale of the bonds authorized under this Act must be
expended as designated in the following schedule under
the direction and supervision of the agencies and enti-
ties set forth in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CON-
SERVATION AND FORESTRY