

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

private and federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis.

Total \$25,000,000

Sec. 6. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. Sections 1 to 5 do not become effective unless the people of the State ratify the issuance of the bonds as set forth in this Act.

Sec. 7. Appropriation balances at year-end. At the end of each fiscal year, all unencumbered appropriation balances representing state money carry forward. Bond proceeds that have not been expended within 10 years after the date of the sale of the bonds lapse to the Office of the Treasurer of State to be used for the retirement of general obligation bonds.

Sec. 8. Bonds authorized but not issued. Any bonds authorized but not issued within 5 years of ratification of this Act are deauthorized and may not be issued, except that the Legislature may, within 2 years after the expiration of that 5-year period, extend the period for issuing any remaining unissued bonds for an additional amount of time not to exceed 5 years.

Sec. 9. Referendum for ratification; submission at election; form of question; effective date. This Act must be submitted to the legal voters of the State at a statewide election held in the month of November following passage of this Act. The municipal officers of this State shall notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet, in the manner prescribed by law for holding a statewide election, to vote on the acceptance or rejection of this Act by voting on the following question:

"Do you favor a bond issue of \$25,000,000 to provide funds, to be awarded through a competitive process and to leverage matching private and federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis, for research and development and commercialization for Maine-based public and private institutions in support of technological innovation in the targeted sectors of life sciences and biomedical technology, environmental and renewable energy technology, information technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology, composites and advanced materials and precision manufacturing?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question and designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots must be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as

votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns. If a majority of the legal votes are cast in favor of this Act, the Governor shall proclaim the result without delay and this Act becomes effective 30 days after the date of the proclamation.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purposes of this referendum.

Effective pending referendum.

CHAPTER 655

S.P. 221 - L.D. 504

An Act Regarding Licensing Fees for Small Slot Machine Distributors

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

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §1018, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2005, c. 663, §7, is further amended to read:

B. The initial application fee for a slot machine distributor license is \$200,000, except that the initial application fee for a slot machine distributor license for an applicant that has applied to distribute fewer than 50 slot machines per location annually is \$50,000. The annual renewal fee is \$75,000, except that the annual renewal fee for a slot machine distributor that distributes fewer than 50 slot machines per location annually is \$10,000.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 656

S.P. 353 - L.D. 794

An Act to Expand the Membership of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7030, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 191, §1, is amended to read:

§7030. Membership

The commission consists of ~~47~~ 19 members, including ~~7~~ 9 appointed by the Governor, 5 appointed by the President of the Senate and 5 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. In making these appointments, the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives

shall consider and appoint residents of the State who have a knowledge of problems facing women in the State, who have experience in advocacy relating to women's issues and who provide leadership in programs or activities that improve opportunities for women. The members of the commission must be chosen from throughout the State, and the majority of members must be women. A member of the Legislature may not be appointed to the commission. The Governor shall appoint ~~7~~ **8** members, each of whom represents one of the following interests: ~~minorities, the elderly, Black people, indigenous people and people of color; older residents of the State; low-income people; persons with disabilities; youth; persons working with victims survivors of domestic violence and; federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and bands in the State; and LGBTQIA+ persons.~~ **The Governor also shall appoint a member who is a person who has not attained 25 years of age.**

For purposes of this section, "LGBTQIA+" includes, but is not limited to, persons who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex or asexual.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 657

S.P. 657 - L.D. 1640

An Act Directing the Department of Transportation to Adopt Rules Regarding Corrosion Mitigation Methods for Steel Bridges

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §357 is enacted to read:

§357. Rules governing corrosion mitigation methods for steel bridges

The Department of Transportation shall adopt rules governing corrosion mitigation methods for steel bridges wholly under the control of the State. Rules adopted pursuant to this section must include, but are not limited to, establishing processes for ensuring that corrosion mitigation activities are carried out in accordance with established corrosion mitigation standards and under the supervision of personnel who are trained and certified in corrosion mitigation methods on an appropriate substrate or surface; requiring plans to prevent environmental degradation that might result from corrosion mitigation activities; and requiring compliance with all applicable state and federal rules and regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Rules adopted pursuant to this section are not required to apply to routine maintenance work performed by employees of the Department of Transportation employees or its contractors. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF Highway and Bridge Capital 0406

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to ensure the rules meet the required standards for corrosion mitigation.

HIGHWAY FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$50,000
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$50,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 658

H.P. 1103 - L.D. 1714

An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §20012 is enacted to read:

§20012. Recovery Community Centers Fund

The Recovery Community Centers Fund is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund within the Office of Behavioral Health for the purposes specified in this section. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets of the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

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

A. "Fund" means the Recovery Community Centers Fund established in this section.

B. "Independent, nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit organization that:

- (1) Operates its own agency that is a tax-exempt organization under 26 United States Code, Section 501(c)(3); or