

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 25, 2023

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

Augusta, Maine
2023

a public hearing as part of its rule-making process. Rules adopted under this section are routine technical rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 39

S.P. 406 - L.D. 987

Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Initiate a Proceeding to Explore Strategies to Procure Standard-offer Service in a Manner that Promotes the Stability of Residential Standard-offer Rates

Sec. 1. Public Utilities Commission to initiate a proceeding. Resolved: That within 30 days of the effective date of this section, the Public Utilities Commission shall initiate a proceeding to develop a procurement strategy and consider other measures that could be used to increase rate stability for residential customers that receive standard-offer service pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3212. The commission shall consider in the proceeding the use of varied contract lengths and terms to reduce price volatility from year to year.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 40

H.P. 666 - L.D. 1030

Resolve, Directing the Secretary of State to Report on the School Bus Driver Shortage

Sec. 1. Report on school bus driver shortage. Resolved: That, by January 3, 2024, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation with any findings related to the school bus driver shortage, the efforts the Secretary of State has made to alleviate the shortage and any recommendations, including suggested legislation, to alleviate the shortage. The committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 41

H.P. 669 - L.D. 1033

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Develop and Distribute Guidance for Diploma Options at the Arthur R. Gould School

Sec. 1. Department of Education to develop guidance about diploma options for residents of the Long Creek Youth Development Center who are attending the Arthur R. Gould School. Resolved:

That the Department of Education shall develop and distribute guidance related to diploma options for residents of the Long Creek Youth Development Center who are attending the Arthur R. Gould School pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-A, section 3815 and who are preparing to graduate pursuant to the department's rule Chapter 127: Instructional Program, Assessment and Diploma Requirements. The distribution model must include distributing the guidance to all superintendents, principals and school counselors and to the principal of the Arthur R. Gould School and yearly notice of the guidance and must include, but not be limited to, the following diploma options for the student: an Arthur R. Gould School diploma, a diploma from the student's sending school or a Department of Education diploma under Title 20-A, section 257-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 42

H.P. 808 - L.D. 1260

Resolve, to Study Expansion of Civics Education and Engagement Through the Secretary of State

Sec. 1. Secretary of State to study appointment of deputy secretary of state to coordinate civics engagement and education; moving staffing and administrative services for the Maine Commission for Community Service to the office of the Secretary of State. Resolved:

That the Secretary of State shall, within existing resources, study the efficacy, feasibility and benefits of appointing a deputy secretary of state to coordinate civics engagement and education matters and of moving staffing and administrative services for the Maine Commission for Community Service, established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 7501, from the Department of Education to the office of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall consult with the Commissioner of Education concerning moving staffing and administrative services for the Maine Commission for

Community Service. By December 6, 2023, the Secretary of State shall submit a report, including recommendations and any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. The committee may report out a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 43

H.P. 1077 - L.D. 1678

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Study and Report on Soil Carbon Sequestration Incentive Programs

Sec. 1. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to study and report on soil carbon sequestration incentive programs. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall study and report on soil carbon sequestration incentive programs that can be applied to land in this State, including but not limited to forest land, agricultural land, conservation land, wetlands and urban and suburban areas and determine possible funding sources that may be used to fund the programs. The department shall submit its report, including any recommended legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than February 1, 2024. The committee may report out legislation regarding the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 44

S.P. 591 - L.D. 1472

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to Amend Their Rules Regarding the Maine School Facilities Finance Program and the School Revolving Renovation Fund

Sec. 1. Department of Education and Maine Municipal Bond Bank to amend rules. Resolved: That the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank shall amend their rules governing the Maine School Facilities Finance Program, established pursuant to the Maine Revised Stat-

utes, Title 30-A, section 5953-E, and the School Revolving Renovation Fund, established pursuant to Title 30-A, section 6006-F, to increase the maximum total loans from the fund for repair, renovation and improvement projects for Priority One, Priority Two, Priority Three, Priority Four and Priority Five projects for a school building from \$4,000,000 to \$8,000,000 and to increase the maximum loan amount from the fund to address each priority level in a school building from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 within any 5-year period.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 45

H.P. 151 - L.D. 230

Resolve, to Require the Maine National Guard to Sell Certain Property in Hallowell

Sec. 1. Resolve 2021, c. 136, §1, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 2021, c. 136, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. ~~Granite Hill Beacon Road property in City of Hallowell; transfer authorized required.~~ Resolved: That, in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 264, but notwithstanding the provisions prohibiting the sale of property for less than the appraised value, the Adjutant General ~~may shall,~~ no later than June 30, 2024, sell the parcel of land located off ~~Granite Hill Beacon~~ Road in the City of Hallowell identified on Hallowell tax map 019 as lot 023 and recorded in the Kennebec County Registry of Deeds as follows:

1. Book 738, Page 111, approximately 4.15 acres from Cyr to the State of Maine dated October 30, 1937;
2. Book 738, Page 112, approximately 0.5 acre from Gillie to the State of Maine dated November 5, 1937; and
3. Book 738, Page 113, approximately 2.3 acres from Lord to the State of Maine dated October of 1937.

The property must be sold to the City of Hallowell for \$40,000, to be paid in 10 equal annual installments, without interest, the first installment due at the time of sale and the subsequent installments due on each anniversary of the sale until the full amount is paid. The sale price is less than the appraised value.

The sale may be accomplished by means of a quit-claim deed, as long as the City of Hallowell agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State from all claims, including any environmental clean-up costs that may arise in connection with the land.

See title page for effective date.