

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

**CHAPTER 70
S.P. 605 - L.D. 1484**

**Resolve, Regarding the Status
of Federal Grant Applications
or Money Secured for the
Funding of a Sexual Assault
Kit Tracking Pilot Program**

Sec. 1. Report regarding the status of federal grant applications or money secured for the funding of sexual assault kit tracking pilot program. Resolved: That the Department of Public Safety shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by February 1, 2024 regarding the status of any federal grant applications or money secured by the department for the purpose of funding a sexual assault kit tracking pilot program and any related recommendations regarding the establishment of such a pilot program. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out a bill relating to a sexual assault kit tracking pilot program to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 71

H.P. 1134 - L.D. 1770

**Resolve, Directing the Board of
Pesticides Control to
Transition to Electronic
Submission of Pesticides Sales
and Use Data**

Sec. 1. Board of Pesticides Control; pesticides sales and use data. Resolved: That, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1471-M, subsection 2, paragraph D, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control shall adopt any rules necessary to implement the transition from paper to electronic format of reports required to be submitted to the board as required by Title 22, section 1471-G. The board shall implement a system of electronic data collection that is efficient for those required to submit reports to the board under Title 22, section 1471-G and useful to the board and members of the public. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, no later than March 1, 2024, the director of the Board of Pesticides Control within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit a report regarding rule-making and implementation of electronic reporting under section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which may report

out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 72

S.P. 749 - L.D. 1848

**Resolve, to Designate the Route
15 Bridge Located in the Town
of Kenduskeag the William S.
Pullen Bridge**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this resolve directs the Department of Transportation to designate Bridge 2967 on Route 15 in the Town of Kenduskeag the William S. Pullen Bridge to honor the World War II soldier who was killed in action; and

Whereas, it is imperative that this designation take place before the expiration of the 90-day period to be in time for the planned formal celebration in the Town of Kenduskeag; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Route 15 bridge in Kenduskeag re-named. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall designate Bridge 2967 on Route 15, which crosses Kenduskeag Stream in the Town of Kenduskeag, currently known as the Wooster Bridge, the William S. Pullen Bridge.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective June 23, 2023.

CHAPTER 73

H.P. 252 - L.D. 419

**Resolve, to Establish a
Working Group to Study
Polling Places at Schools in
Order to Protect Security and
Accessibility**

Preamble. Whereas, the Legislature finds that school buildings are ideal locations to serve as polling places due to their central locations, accessible parking

and compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

Whereas, most school buildings are also equipped with a gymnasium, which offers ample space and allows for the flow of foot traffic in a polling place; and

Whereas, school buildings are often the only locations within a community that can serve as a polling place for that community, but schools also require strong security at all times in order to protect students and staff and on election day to protect election staff and voters; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Working group to study polling places at schools. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," to study the use of school buildings as polling places, to consider options to protect the security of school students and staff and election staff and voters and to consider polling place accessibility.

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That the working group consists of 9 members as follows:

1. The Secretary of State or the secretary's designee;
2. The deputy secretary of state of the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions within the Department of the Secretary of State or the deputy secretary's designee;
3. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
4. A representative of the Maine School Boards Association, appointed by the Secretary of State;
5. A representative of the Maine School Superintendents Association, appointed by the Secretary of State;
6. A representative of the Maine Town and City Clerks' Association, appointed by the Secretary of State;
7. A representative of the Maine Municipal Association, appointed by the Secretary of State;
8. A representative of an organization dedicated to advancing the legal rights of individuals with disabilities, appointed by the Secretary of State; and
9. A representative of an organization dedicated to the protection of voters who are from historically underrepresented or marginalized communities, appointed by the Secretary of State.

Sec. 3. Compensation. Resolved: That members of the working group are not compensated for their participation in the working group.

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the working group shall:

1. Identify the number of school buildings in the State that are designated as polling places;
2. Examine and identify practices in other states around the use of school buildings as polling places;
3. Evaluate the criteria necessary to protect the security of school students and staff and election staff and voters when school buildings are used as polling places;
4. Identify possible changes to practices around the use of school buildings as polling places to protect voter accessibility and to safeguard the security of school students and staff and election staff and voters when a school building is used as a polling place; and
5. Make recommendations based on the findings of the working group.

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State shall provide necessary staffing services to the working group.

Sec. 6. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2024, the working group shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. The committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 74

H.P. 388 - L.D. 611

Resolve, Establishing a Working Group to Maximize Eligibility for Energy Efficiency Programs for Low-income Homeowners

Sec. 1. Maine State Housing Authority to convene a working group to maximize eligibility for energy efficiency programs for low-income homeowners. Resolved: That the Maine State Housing Authority shall convene a working group to design a program that will provide financial assistance to low-income homeowners for weatherization and other repairs needed to meet the eligibility requirements for home energy assistance programs. The working group must include input from community action agencies as designated under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5324, the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, one or more professional contractors who make weatherization repairs and other entities as considered appropriate by the Maine State Housing Authority.