

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

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.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That by December 1, 2023, the working group under section 1 shall submit a report to the Joint Select Committee on Housing proposing a program to provide financial assistance to low-income homeowners for weatherization and other repairs needed to meet eligibility requirements for home energy assistance programs. When developing the proposal for a program, the working group must ensure that it includes a provision to evaluate if the amount of financial assistance necessary for weatherization or repair is reasonable relative to the anticipated benefit from the home energy assistance program and if the overall suitability of the home makes the weatherization or repair a worthwhile investment. The proposal must be designed to serve residential housing units with household incomes up to 100% of the area median income and serve as a complement to, not a substitute for, weatherization assistance paid for using federal funds, including the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund within the Maine State Housing Authority.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 75
S.P. 356 - L.D. 859**

**Resolve, to Assess, Develop,
Implement and Fund the Reuse
of Existing Facilities at
Dorothea Dix Psychiatric
Center**

Sec. 1. Department of Administrative and Financial Services to establish stakeholder group. Resolved: That the Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall establish a stakeholder group to examine potential future beneficial public uses of currently unused structures at the Dorothea Dix campus. The department shall invite the following individuals to participate in the stakeholder group:

1. The Superintendent of the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center;
2. A representative or representatives of the City of Bangor;
3. A representative or representatives of Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center;
4. A representative or representatives of St. Joseph Hospital;
5. A representative or representatives of Penobscot Community Health Center;
6. A representative of Saxl Park in the City of Bangor; and
7. Other individuals whom the department determines necessary to complete the stakeholder group's examination.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall submit its recommendations related to section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 10, 2024. The committee may report out legislation related to the department's report in the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 76
H.P. 589 - L.D. 942**

**Resolve, to Establish a Plan for
Adding a 3rd Option for
Gender on State Forms**

Sec. 1. Department of Administrative and Financial Services, State Court Administrator and Executive Director of the Legislative Council to gather information. Resolved: That the Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall coordinate with all executive branch departments, agencies, offices, boards and commissions and all quasi-independent agencies, boards, commissions, authorities and institutions in the State to compile a list of all printed and electronic forms, applications and other documents used by these entities that require a person to designate that person's gender and estimate the time and cost required to include within those forms, applications and other documents an option to designate "X" for gender. The State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall compile a list of all printed and electronic forms, applications and other documents used by the judicial branch and the legislative branch, respectively, that require a person to designate that person's gender and estimate the time and cost required to include within those forms, applications and other documents an option to designate "X" for gender. The State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall provide this information to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in a timely manner that allows the department to include this information within the report required by section 2.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by January 1, 2024, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall report the information compiled under section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and may include in the report any recommendations for expediting the process by which all printed and electronic forms, applications and other documents that require a gender designation are revised to include an option to designate "X" for gender. 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.