

# 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.**

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2023**

**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. Resolve 2021, c. 168, §4, amended. Resolved:** That Resolve 2021, c. 168, §4 is amended to read:

**Sec. 4. Energy rate relief payments by covered utilities. Resolved:** That, by October 30, ~~2022~~ 2023, each covered utility shall credit to the account of each eligible customer the amount of relief payment to which the eligible customer is entitled under section 5 unless the eligible customer is no longer a customer of the utility. By November 15, ~~2022~~ 2023, the covered utility shall report to the department the total amount of relief payments applied to eligible customer accounts and the total number of eligible customers who received an account credit in each relief payment tier specified in section 5, subsections 1 to 3. When a covered utility credits the relief payment to the customer's bill, the utility may deduct that amount from the separate account set aside for purposes of this section under section 3 and treat that amount as if it were a payment by the customer. Any funds that a covered utility does not credit to an eligible customer under this section by ~~June~~ December 1, 2023 must be returned to the Treasurer of State, who, by December 31, 2023, shall transfer the funds to the department.

**Sec. 2. Resolve 2021, c. 168, §5, first ¶, amended. Resolved:** That Resolve 2021, c. 168, §5, first ¶ is amended to read:

**Sec. 5. Energy rate relief payment distribution. Resolved:** That the department shall determine the amount of relief payments for covered utilities to credit to an eligible customer based on the number of kilowatt-hours billed by the covered utility to the customer on the February 2022 invoice or based on an alternative method as determined by the department in accordance with the following relief payment tiers:

**Sec. 3. Resolve 2021, c. 168, §6, amended. Resolved:** That Resolve 2021, c. 168, §6 is amended to read:

**Sec. 6. Energy Rate Relief Fund. Resolved:** That the Energy Rate Relief Fund is established for purposes of facilitating relief payments under this section. The fund consists of all resources transferred to the fund by the State Controller under section 3 and funds identified by the department to implement this section. The fund must be used to provide relief payments to covered utilities or consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities under this section. The department may use the fund to provide energy rate relief to eligible customers of a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility. Any amounts remaining in the fund on ~~June 30~~

~~December 15~~, 2023 must be transferred by the State Controller to the department.

**Sec. 4. Resolve 2021, c. 168, §7, amended. Resolved:** That Resolve 2021, c. 168, §7 is amended to read:

**Sec. 7. Review. Resolved:** That, by ~~June 30~~ December 15, 2023, the department shall undertake a review of each covered utility to ensure that the relief payment under section 3 has been credited to eligible customers or returned to the State in accordance with section 4. If the department determines that any of the requirements of this section have not been complied with, the department may issue appropriate orders to correct the noncompliance or provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters recommending legislation to address the matter.

**Sec. 5. Retroactivity. Resolved:** That this resolve applies retroactively to October 30, 2022.

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

Effective July 26, 2023.

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## CHAPTER 105

### H.P. 149 - L.D. 228

#### **Resolve, to Require That Alcohol Misuse Be Disclosed as a Contributing Factor to Death on Death Certificates**

**Sec. 1. Death certificate to list alcohol misuse as a contributing factor. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend the medical certification of the cause of death completed pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2842 to include a check box to document if alcohol misuse contributed to the death of a person.

**Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to create an information campaign regarding the completion of death certificates. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services shall develop an information campaign and training regarding the completion of medical certifications of the cause of death by eligible providers and seek approval for continuing medical education credits for such training.

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Data, Research and Vital Statistics Z037**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding required to create an accredited online training module.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$41,900
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$41,900</b>

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 106  
H.P. 263 - L.D. 430**

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Promote Translation and Interpretation Services in Health Care Settings**

**Sec. 1. Department to promote translation and interpretation services in health care settings. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's office of population health equity shall partner with hospitals and health care provider associations to gather information regarding translation and interpretation services and translation of discharge instructions and medication instructions available in hospitals; primary care provider settings; federally qualified health centers; rural health centers; United States Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service centers; migrant health programs; and other provider settings across the State. The department shall create and deliver a public information campaign designed to promote the availability of these services, with particular focus on individuals who use a primary language other than English, including deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

**Sec. 2. Report by department. Resolved:** That, by February 1, 2025, the Department of Health and Human Services shall report on its progress toward implementing the requirements of section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
0143**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a public information campaign to promote translation and interpretation services in health care settings.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$0	\$15,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$15,000
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See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 107  
S.P. 271 - L.D. 654**

**Resolve, Directing the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to Study Methods to Encourage the Development of Accessory Dwelling Units**

**Sec. 1. Stakeholder group regarding accessory dwelling units; encourage development and construction. Resolved:** That the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall convene a group of stakeholders including, but not limited to, representatives from the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Maine State Housing Authority, community lending institutions, the construction industry and the manufactured and modular housing industry to study methods and develop model policy to encourage the development and construction of accessory dwelling units. Methods may include, but are not limited to, financing and incentive programs for the development and construction of accessory dwelling units. The stakeholder group shall review existing models for financing and incentivizing accessory dwelling units; explore standardized building designs; solicit input from interested parties; and review municipal efforts to adopt ordinances governing accessory dwelling units. The office shall submit a report, with findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Select Committee on Housing no later than March 1, 2024. The joint select committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature relating to the subject matter of the report.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 108  
H.P. 478 - L.D. 709**

**Resolve, to Develop a Home Share Pilot Program for Older Persons**

**Sec. 1. Maine State Housing Authority to develop home share pilot program for older persons. Resolved:** That the Maine State Housing Authority shall develop and administer, through a contract with an appropriate vendor, a home share pilot program, referred to in this resolve as "the program," primarily aimed at assisting older persons to reduce living expenses, including housing costs, by matching older