

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

3. Report. The department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters with its findings and recommendations no later than November 6, 2024. The committee may report out legislation to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

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

Effective March 6, 2024.

**CHAPTER 135
S.P. 521 - L.D. 1284**

**Resolve, Directing the
Commissioner of Education to
Review the Placement of
Personal Finance in the System
of Learning Results**

Sec. 1. Commissioner of Education review of content standards for personal finance. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Education shall, in the commissioner's next regular review of the content standards and performance indicators by content area pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 4, consider the inclusion of personal finance in content areas other than social studies, as appropriate.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 136
S.P. 684 - L.D. 1721**

**Resolve, to Establish a Plan to
Provide Transitional Housing
and to Support the Growth of
Maine's Workforce**

Sec. 1. Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to develop plan for transitional housing. Resolved: That the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall propose a plan to provide transitional housing for persons seeking federal work permits and their families based on the model being used in southern Maine, which consists of leasing a property formerly used as a hotel and contracting with a private nonprofit entity to provide support services. The plan must include an evaluation of options for purchasing a similar property, or allocating funds to a nongovernmental entity to purchase a similar property, to provide transitional housing concurrent with services aimed at supporting entry into the workforce and an evaluation of the financial impacts upon the State and the municipality in which the property is located. The plan must identify potential funding sources, including but not limited

to existing state and federal funds. In addition to the proposed plan, using data collected from the current model used to provide transitional housing, the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall provide information regarding who is being served by the model, how many enter the workforce, the amount of time those being served use transitional housing and accompanying services before successfully entering the workforce and how workforce needs are affected by the model. The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall submit a report containing the proposed plan and the information required by this section no later than January 15, 2025 to the joint standing committee or the joint select committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters, which is authorized to report out a bill to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 137
H.P. 1424 - L.D. 2221**

**Resolve, Directing the State
Board of Education to Amend
Chapter 115: The
Credentialing of Education
Personnel, a Major Substantive
Rule of the State Board of
Education**

Sec. 1. State Board of Education to amend rule regarding credentialing of education personnel. Resolved: That the State Board of Education shall amend rule Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a major substantive rule of the State Board of Education, and submit the provisionally adopted rule to the 132nd Legislature for review. Amendments to the rule may include, but are not limited to, recommendations included in the State Board of Education's report submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 54.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 138
H.P. 1385 - L.D. 2165**

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative
Review of Portions of Chapter
270: Uniform Reporting
System for Quality Data Sets, a
Major Substantive Rule of the
Maine Health Data
Organization**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until

90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; 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. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 270: Uniform Reporting System for Quality Data Sets, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Maine Health Data Organization that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

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

Effective March 12, 2024.

CHAPTER 139

S.P. 767 - L.D. 1896

Resolve, Directing the Workers' Compensation Board to Analyze Data on the Adequacy of Certain Maine Workers' Compensation Benefits

Sec. 1. Workers' Compensation Board to identify and conduct an analysis of claims and payments. Resolved: That the Workers' Compensation Board, referred to in this resolve as "the board," using data supplied by insurers, 3rd-party administrators, group self-insurers and individual self-insured employers, shall identify and analyze the compensation and benefits provided to an individual claimant pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 212 for total incapacity, section 213 for partial incapacity and section 215 for death and any other relevant data and available reports. For each claimant, the analysis must include, but is not limited to, data and reports relating to the following components:

1. The claim identification number assigned by the board;
2. The claim identification number assigned by the insurer, 3rd-party administrator, group self-insurer or individual self-insured employer;
3. The date of injury;
4. The average weekly wage;
5. The compensation rate;
6. For a claimant pursuant to Title 39-A, section 212, the number of weeks of compensation and benefits paid;
7. For a claimant pursuant to Title 39-A, section 213, the number of weeks of compensation and benefits paid and the number of weeks for which the benefit was 100% partial;
8. For a claimant pursuant to Title 39-A, section 215, the number of weeks of compensation and benefits paid;
9. The date the last payment was made and whether payments are continuing;
10. The total amount of indemnity benefits paid; and
11. Any other information the board determines necessary to complete the analysis.

In analyzing each data component, the board shall consider the accuracy of the data available; how the benefit amount compares to the current cost of living as determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI-U for the New England Division; the cost of updating the annual adjustment provision in Title 39-A, section 212; and the cost of implementing a cost-of-living adjustment provision in sections 213 and 215.

Sec. 2. Updates; report; legislation. Resolved: That the board, within existing resources, shall provide monthly updates to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over workers' compensation matters on the identification of data and reports and the analysis conducted under section 1. No later than August 16, 2025, the board shall submit a final report to the committee with its findings, recommendations and suggested legislation. The report must include:

1. A thorough analysis of the data and reports that were considered, identification of data or other areas that require further study and recommendations on any changes or adjustments to workers' compensation benefits in order to ensure claimants are receiving adequate benefits;
2. A thorough analysis of whether the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 provides substantial protection for workers who have suffered work-related