

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

of the project's consistency with the master plan to the Capitol Planning Commission.

Sec. 5. Outdoor lighting. Resolved: That the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1769 does not apply to lighting on the East Campus or West Campus.

Sec. 6. Prior master plan. Resolved: That the master plan supersedes the previous plan adopted by the 120th Legislature in Resolve 2001, chapter 34.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 144

H.P. 1394 - L.D. 2179

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank

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 64: Maine School Facilities Program and School Revolving Renovation Fund, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Education and the Maine Municipal Bond Bank 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 19, 2024.

CHAPTER 145

S.P. 798 - L.D. 1962

Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Regarding Utility Shut-offs

Sec. 1. Adopt rules governing transmission and distribution utility and gas utility terminations and disconnections. Resolved: That, in accordance with its authority under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, sections 111 and 704, the Public Utilities Commission shall adopt rules governing transmission and distribution utility and gas utility service terminations and disconnections due to unpaid bills for utility service.

1. For residential customers of transmission and distribution utilities and gas utilities, the rules must:

A. Prohibit the termination or disconnection of utility service for unpaid utility bills during extreme weather or temperature conditions, including extreme heat or humidity, between April 16th and November 14th; and

B. Establish a threshold dollar amount greater than \$50 owed by a customer who does not pay or make a payment arrangement on an undisputed overdue utility bill at or above which the utility may terminate or disconnect utility service; and

2. For low-income customers of a transmission and distribution utility, the rules must prohibit the utility from:

A. Charging a restoration or reconnection fee or requiring a security deposit for a restoration of service; and

B. Charging late fees that accrued prior to the termination or disconnection.

For the purposes of this subsection, "low-income customer" means a residential customer of a transmission and distribution utility who, as determined by the commission, receives low-income financial assistance pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2 or low-income home energy assistance pursuant to the program described in Title 30-A, section 4722, subsection 1, paragraph W or who is enrolled in an arrearage management program implemented pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2-A.