

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

9. Make recommendations, excluding the development of more housing stock, to maximize the acceptance of housing vouchers by landlords and increase flexibility in the use of housing vouchers, including but not limited to housing voucher expiration, submitting United States Department of Housing and Urban Development waiver requests and amendments to rules of the Maine State Housing Authority.

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2025, the Maine State Housing Authority shall submit a report on the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group under section 1 to the joint select or joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters. The committee receiving the report is authorized to submit legislation based on the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 160

H.P. 1427 - L.D. 2226

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 213: Rules for the Salmonella Enteritidis Risk Reduction and Surveillance Program for Commercial Egg-type Flocks, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

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 outside the legislative rule acceptance period; 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 Chapter 213: Rules for the Salmonella Enteritidis Risk Reduction and Surveillance Program for Commercial Egg-type Flocks, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A outside the legislative rule acceptance period, is authorized, and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may make grammatical, formatting, punctuation and other technical, nonsubstantive editing changes to the rule as necessary prior to final adoption, including, but not limited to, any such changes necessary to ensure that the rule is correctly chaptered as Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry rule Chapter 213.

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

Effective April 2, 2024.

CHAPTER 161

S.P. 959 - L.D. 2239

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Mechanic Falls the Bill Dunlop Memorial 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, Bridge 2540 on Elm Street in the Town of Mechanic Falls is slated for renovation in 2025; and

Whereas, this legislation provides for the renaming of Bridge 2540; and

Whereas, it is imperative that this legislation take effect as soon as possible in order to timely expedite the renaming process prior to the beginning of the renovation process; 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. Bridge in Mechanic Falls renamed. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall designate Bridge 2540 on Elm Street in the Town of Mechanic Falls, currently known as the Mechanic Falls Bridge, the Bill Dunlop Memorial Bridge.

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

Effective April 2, 2024.

CHAPTER 162

S.P. 920 - L.D. 2169

Resolve, Directing the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to Recommend Proposals to Support the Development of Attainable Housing

Sec. 1. Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to develop recommendations. Resolved: That the Director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, referred to in this resolve as "the director," shall develop recommendations for potential programs designed to assist housing developers with financing housing for persons with a household income of more than 80% of the area median income where they reside. For the purposes of this resolve, "area median income" means the median income for an area as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Sec. 2. Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to seek input in development of recommendations. Resolved: That the director, or the director's designee, shall seek input from the Maine State Housing Authority, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, a person with experience in commercial real estate, an organization that assists developers with financing affordable housing projects and housing developers with experience using the programs administered by the Maine State Housing Authority to build rental housing for persons with a household income of less than 80% of the area median income. In developing recommendations for potential programs, at a minimum, the following must be considered:

1. Options for a program that supports the development of rental housing targeted at persons with a household income of 80% to 150% of the area median income where the rental housing would be located;
2. Options for a program that supports homeownership by persons with a household income of 120% to 180% of the area median income where the home is located;
3. The feasibility of programs described in subsections 1 and 2 and the regions of the State where such programs would address a quantifiable need for housing for persons in those income ranges and would also be attractive to developers of rental housing and potential homeowners;

4. Program elements that encourage or require a public-private partnership or some financial investments from businesses in the target communities, municipalities and philanthropic organizations; and

5. The long-term benefits of the programs as informed by an assessment of how the programs would contribute to addressing the State's housing production needs generally and the shortage of housing available to persons with household incomes from 80% to 150% of the area median income.

Sec. 3. Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to submit report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2025, the director shall submit a report to the joint standing or joint select committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters. The committee that receives the report is authorized to report out legislation based on the recommendations in the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 163

H.P. 1434 - L.D. 2235

Resolve, Directing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to Add a 3rd Option for Gender on State Forms

Sec. 1. Department of Administrative and Financial Services, State Court Administrator and Executive Director of Legislative Council to amend printed forms. Resolved: That, within existing resources, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, in coordination with all executive branch departments, agencies, offices, boards and commissions and all quasi-independent agencies, boards, commissions, authorities and institutions in the State, and the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall, by December 31, 2024, add an option to designate "X" for gender on all printed forms, applications and other documents used by these entities that require a person to designate that person's gender, except when the form, application or other document is created pursuant to federal law or regulation or for the purpose of multi-jurisdictional cooperation and uniformity. When reviewing the printed forms, the departments, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall determine whether the designation of a person's gender is necessary for the purposes of each form, and, if it is not, the departments, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the