

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**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**

**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

Legislative Council shall remove the question from the form.

**Sec. 2. Department of Administrative and Financial Services, State Court Administrator and Executive Director of Legislative Council to amend digital 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 add an option to designate "X" for gender on all digital 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 multijurisdictional cooperation and uniformity. When reviewing the digital 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 Legislative Council shall remove the question from the form. The departments, the State Court Administrator and the Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall make these updates in the regular course of updating their forms.

See title page for effective date.

---

---

**CHAPTER 164**

**H.P. 1477 - L.D. 2286**

**Resolve, Directing the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to Review Certain Components of General Purpose Aid for Local Schools and the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula**

**Sec. 1. Maine Education Policy Research Institute to review certain general purpose aid for local schools essential programs and services components; report. Resolved:** That the Maine Policy Education Research Institute, in conjunction with the Department of Education, shall:

1. Conduct a targeted review of general purpose aid for local schools. The review must include, but is not limited to, the following components:

A. The State's ability to adequately fund recruitment, retention, salaries and benefits of teachers and support staff, which represent the largest portion of the cost of public education;

B. Property valuation and its efficacy in determining municipal contribution levels to public education;

C. Regional differences in education costs and contributing factors to these differences; and

D. Funding mechanisms used in other states to distribute funding for public education;

2. Conduct a review of components of the essential programs and services funding formula under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606-B that have been identified as driving inequity within the formula, including, but not limited to:

A. Expenditure-driven components, with particular attention to special education costs;

B. The determination of a municipality's ability to pay;

C. The regional adjustment under Title 20-A, section 15682; and

D. Adjustments to the state share of the total allocation, including, but not limited to, adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A and Title 20-A, sections 15689 and 15689-A.

In conducting the review, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute and the Department of Education shall include stakeholder representatives from regions throughout the State, including, but not limited to, superintendents, school board members, school business officers, principals, teachers, directors of special services and career and technical education directors. The Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall recommend potential adjustments to the essential programs and services funding formula to be modeled by the department, and the department shall model the recommended potential adjustments to the essential programs and services funding formula; and

3. Assess the review of essential programs and services components required pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15686-A and make recommendations regarding improvements to the review process, including, but not limited to, the established timeline and opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

No later than March 15, 2025, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters with the institute's findings and recommendations, including the results of any modeling of potential adjustments to the essential programs and services funding formula conducted. The joint standing committee may submit legislation related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.