

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

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.

The Department of Education shall conduct the reviews within existing resources.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 165
S.P. 887 - L.D. 2094**

Resolve, to Require the Establishment of a Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers

Sec. 1. Formation of stakeholder group; study. Resolved: That the Department of Public Safety shall convene a stakeholder group composed of members as required by section 2 to study long-term solutions to improve the recruitment, retention and wellness of law enforcement officers in the State. The study must include, but is not limited to:

1. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage the recruitment of law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to address vacant law enforcement positions;
2. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage the retention of law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to support this goal; and
3. An analysis of how to incentivize and encourage mental and physical wellness programs for law enforcement officers and how funding could be provided to support this goal.

Sec. 2. Stakeholder group membership. Resolved: That the stakeholder group under section 1 consists of the following 12 members:

1. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;
2. An individual representing the Maine Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police;
3. An individual representing the Maine Association of Police;
4. An individual representing a statewide association advocating for state troopers in the State;
5. An individual representing the Maine State Law Enforcement Association;
6. An individual representing the Maine Criminal Justice Academy;
7. An individual representing a coalition of mental health providers in the State who specialize in treating first responders as their sole practice;

8. An individual representing a postsecondary educational institution in the State with programs focused on law enforcement or mental health;

9. An individual representing the Maine Chiefs of Police Association;

10. An individual representing the Maine Sheriffs' Association;

11. A student representing a secondary school program focused on law enforcement education in the State; and

12. An individual representing retired law enforcement officers in the State.

Sec. 3. Meetings; report. Resolved: That the Department of Public Safety shall convene the first meeting of the stakeholder group under section 1. At the first meeting, the members of the stakeholder group shall elect a chair and vice-chair to oversee and administer the stakeholder group. The chair shall oversee the meetings of the stakeholder group, and the vice-chair shall assume the role of the chair in the chair's absence. The chair and vice-chair may not be representatives or employees of the department.

The stakeholder group shall develop a report with its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, that address the initiatives of the study in section 1. The Department of Public Safety shall submit the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters no later than January 2, 2025. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 166
H.P. 1464 - L.D. 2277**

Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to Convey by Sale the Interests of the State in 3 Properties Located in Biddeford, Sanford and York

Sec. 1. Authority to convey state property. Resolved: That, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State, by and through the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, referred to in this resolve as "the commissioner," may:

1. Convey by sale all or a portion of the State's interests in the 3 parcels of state property described in section 2, together with the buildings and improvements, all appurtenant rights and easements and all personal