

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JUNE 29, 2023**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2023**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2023**

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SELECTED MEMORIALS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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**JOINT RESOLUTION  
EXPRESSING THE  
OUTRAGE OF THE MAINE  
LEGISLATURE  
REGARDING THE  
DECISION BY WHOLE  
FOODS MARKET, BLUE  
APRON HOLDINGS AND  
HELLOFRESH GROUP TO  
DISCONTINUE SELLING  
MAINE LOBSTER**

**S.P. 12**

**WHEREAS**, Whole Foods Market has announced that it will stop selling Gulf of Maine lobster in its more than 500 stores nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group have made similar announcements; and

**WHEREAS**, the announcements were in response to a statement by the London-based Marine Stewardship Council that it is suspending the certification of sustainability for the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery, due to concerns over harm to the North Atlantic right whale; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the statement by the Marine Stewardship Council, there has never been a North Atlantic right whale death attributed to Maine lobster gear; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine lobster harvesters have a 150-year history of sustainability, and Maine's lobstering community has consistently demonstrated its commitment to protecting North Atlantic right whales; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative has stated that the Marine Stewardship Council's suspension of the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery's certification of sustainability is due to flaws with the National Marine Fisheries Service's regulatory plan and not due to actions by the lobster harvesters themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, the suspension of the lobster fishery's certification of sustainability and the refusal of Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group to continue to sell Gulf of Maine lobster harm the livelihoods of hard-working men and women up and down Maine's coast; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to express our disappointment over the outrageous decision by Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh

Group to discontinue the sale of Gulf of Maine lobster; our belief that the Marine Stewardship Council, Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group are following misguided recommendations rather than science; our hope that the Marine Stewardship Council, Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group will reconsider their potentially devastating decision; and our hope that the public will refuse to patronize Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group until those retailers recognize that their concerns regarding the danger of Maine lobstering to the North Atlantic right whale are unfounded and flawed and that their refusal to sell lobster from the Gulf of Maine based on these unfounded and flawed concerns maligns the men and women in Maine engaged in the lobster industry and Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group resume selling lobster from the Gulf of Maine; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the corporate offices of Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group and to the Marine Stewardship Council.

**Read and adopted by the Senate December 7, 2022  
and the House of Representatives December 7,  
2022.**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION  
RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY  
2023 AS 211 MONTH**

**S.P. 243**

**WHEREAS**, 211 Maine is a Maine-based health and human services and emergency preparedness and response helpline that provides Maine people free and confidential referrals to needed resources; and

**WHEREAS**, 211 Maine provides around-the-clock service statewide, offering efficient and effective responses from people employed in Maine to questions arising from the growing complexities in health, financial and human services and the needs of Maine people; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2006, 211 Maine call specialists have assisted with requests for information regarding topics ranging from substance use and recovery services to housing support and food resources, in 2022 fielding over 85,000 calls, text messages and e-mails from people looking for help; and

**WHEREAS**, 211 Maine has supported the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the people of Maine by fielding general questions about

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COVID-19 since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, including questions regarding how people can best protect themselves, the common symptoms of COVID-19, travel advisories and the latest information on testing, and in this support role has fielded over 97,000 contacts; and

**WHEREAS**, during this past year, 211 Maine directed over 20,000 Maine people to heating and electric utility assistance services, which may have prevented their contacting the wrong agency for heating assistance, prevented utility shut-offs and saved people from spending winter nights without fuel; and

**WHEREAS**, 211 Maine handles a number of specialized services and partnerships, including the opiate helpline and the gambling helpline and serving as the centralized access point for the Help Me Grow Maine program, helping families with children from birth to 8 years of age get connected to needed services, and is also a resource for finding information about needs such as tax preparation, mental health services and browntail moth caterpillar prevention, mitigation and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, 211 Maine provides a powerful example of how the government and nonprofit and private sectors can work together to improve the quality of life of the people of Maine; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 2023 as 211 Month.

**Read and adopted by the Senate February 14, 2023 and the House of Representatives February 16, 2023.**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION TO  
RECOGNIZE THE LIVES  
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
OF BLACK MAINE  
CITIZENS REUBEN RUBY,  
GEORGE THOMPSON  
RUBY, MARY DALY  
DICKSON AND LOIS ANN  
DICKSON RICE DURING  
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**H.P. 373**

**WHEREAS**, Maine's Black history and the story of Maine's Black citizens and their accomplishments and contributions are barely remembered today; and

**WHEREAS**, Reuben Ruby, a Black man, was born in Gray in 1798; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ruby was the first person in the State to have a taxi, then known as a "hack," and one of

his riders was William Lloyd Garrison, who was given a tour of Portland by Mr. Ruby before the Boston abolitionist joined Portland's Black leaders at Mr. Ruby's home for dinner; and

**WHEREAS**, in the place where Mr. Ruby's hack stand was located, on the corner of Temple Street and Federal Street, there is placed, as part of the Portland Freedom Trail, a stone monument recognizing the business; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ruby was only 29 years of age when he became an agent for Freedom's Journal, the first Black-owned newspaper in the country. In October 1834, he was the only Black person among those representing the City of Portland at the forming of the Maine Anti-Slavery Society in Augusta; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ruby was one of 2 Black persons sent to represent Maine at the Fifth Annual Convention for the Improvement of the Free People of Color, held in Philadelphia in 1835. The convention elected Mr. Ruby as its president; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ruby was elected a vice-president of the American Moral Reform Society, a national group led by James Forten, a Black abolitionist from Philadelphia. In 1840, Mr. Ruby was elected president of the Manhattan Anti-Slavery Society in New York City; and

**WHEREAS**, Reuben Ruby's son, George Thompson Ruby, was the first Black graduate of Portland High School; and

**WHEREAS**, George Thompson Ruby was elected to the Texas state Senate during Reconstruction and was a delegate to the 1868 Republican National Convention in Chicago and the party's convention in Philadelphia 4 years later; and

**WHEREAS**, Lois Ann Dickson Rice, a Black woman, was born in Portland and went on to become valedictorian at Portland High School in 1950 and class president of Radcliffe College in 1954. She became national vice president of the College Board and is considered "the Mother of the Pell Grant," a federal financial aid program that benefits millions of students each year; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1950, her mother, Mary Daly Dickson, was named Maine Mother of the Year, becoming the first Black woman to gain that honor; and

**WHEREAS**, Lois Ann Dickson Rice's legacy of achievement continues in her daughter Susan Rice, who was United States Ambassador to the United Nations and then National Security Advisor in the administration of President Barack Obama and has been tapped to run the Domestic Policy Council under President Joe Biden; and

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**WHEREAS**, Maine's Black citizens have a long history of accomplishments that should be remembered and celebrated; and

**WHEREAS**, from the Revolutionary War through the abolitionist movement, to marches from Selma to Montgomery and across America today, and in this State, African Americans in Maine have remained devoted to the proposition that all of us are created equal, even when their own rights were denied; and

**WHEREAS**, the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of African Americans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to honor during Black History Month the contributions of African Americans in Maine's and the nation's history and encourage all people in the State to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the State and the nation.

**Read and adopted by the House of Representatives  
February 14, 2023 and the Senate February 16,  
2023.**

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the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the inherent dignity and rights of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That We recognize March 16, 2023 as a historic State of the Tribes address at the Legislature.

**Read and adopted by the House of Representatives  
March 16, 2023 and the Senate March 21, 2023.**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION  
COMMEMORATING THE  
2023 STATE OF THE TRIBES**

**H.P. 771**

**WHEREAS**, the Wabanaki People, People of the Dawnland, including the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation, have lived in present-day Maine since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wabanaki People have been the stewards of the land and natural resources, while making significant economic, social and cultural contributions, including the participation of representatives to the Legislature since statehood; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wabanaki tribal nations addressed the Legislature in a historic State of the Tribes address on March 11, 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, this State of the Tribes address builds upon that work and serves as an opportunity to gain critical understanding of the continuing efforts to achieve a more just and equitable relationship; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in