

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## PART 5

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Chap.	Sec.
251. Tramways .....	1901
253. Licenses to Carry Weapons .....	2031

## CHAPTER 251

## TRAMWAYS

Subch.	Sec.
I. General Provisions .....	1901
II. Safety Board .....	1941
III. Registration .....	1991

## SUBCHAPTER I

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec.
1901. Declaration of policy.
1902. Definitions.
1903. Application of provisions.
1904. Provisions in lieu of others.
1905. Penalty.

**§ 1901. Declaration of policy**

It shall be the policy of the State of Maine to protect its citizens and visitors from unnecessary mechanical hazards in the operation of ski tows, lifts and tramways, to ensure that reasonable design and construction are used, that accepted safety devices and sufficient personnel are provided for, and that periodic inspections and adjustments are made which are deemed essential to the safe operation of ski tows, ski lifts and passenger tramways. The primary responsibility for design, construction, maintenance and inspection rests with the operators of such passenger tramway devices. The State, through its Passenger Tramway Safety Board, shall register all ski lift devices, establish reasonable standards of design and operational practices, and make such independent inspections as may be necessary in carrying out this policy.

1961, c. 325.

**§ 1902. Definitions**

Each word or term defined in this section has the meaning indicated in this section for the purposes of this chapter, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context:

**1. Board.** "Board" means the Passenger Tramway Safety Board.

**2. Commission.** "Commission" means the State Park and Recreation Commission.

1963, c. 4, § 2.

**3. Industry.** "Industry" means the activities of all those persons in the State who own or control the operation of passenger tramways.

**4. Operator.** "Operator" means a person who owns or controls the operation of a passenger tramway. "Operator" shall include the State or any political subdivision.

**5. Passenger tramway.** "Passenger tramway" means a device used to transport passengers uphill on skis, or in cars on tracks or suspended in the air, by the use of steel cables, chains or belts or by ropes, and usually supported by trestles or towers with one or more spans. "Passenger tramway" shall include the following:

**A.** Two-car aerial passenger tramway, a device used to transport passengers in 2 open or enclosed cars attached to, and suspended from, a moving wire rope or attached to a moving wire rope and supported on a standing wire rope, or similar devices;

**B.** Multi-car aerial passenger tramway, a device used to transport passengers in several open or enclosed cars attached to, and suspended from, a moving wire rope or attached to a moving wire rope and supported on a standing wire rope, or similar devices;

**C.** Skimobile, a device in which a passenger car running on steel or wooden tracks is attached to and pulled by a steel cable, or similar devices;

**D.** Chair lift, a type of transportation on which passengers are carried on chairs suspended in the air and attached to a moving cable, chain or link belt supported by trestles or towers with one or more spans, or similar devices;

**E.** J bar, T bar, platter pull, so called, and similar types of devices are means of transportation which pull skiers riding

on skis by means of an attachment to a main overhead cable supported by trestles or towers with one or more spans;

**F.** Rope tow, a type of transportation which pulls the skiers riding on skis as the skier grasps the rope manually, or similar devices.

1961, c. 325; 1963, c. 4, § 2.

### **§ 1903. Application of provisions**

This chapter removes ski tows, lifts and tramways from regulation under any other law covering mechanical rides.

1961, c. 325.

### **§ 1904. Provisions in lieu of others**

The provisions for regulation, registration and licensing of passenger tramways under this chapter shall be in lieu of all other regulations, registration or licensing requirements by the Insurance Commissioner under Title 8, sections 391 and 396.

1961, c. 325; c. 417, § 115.

### **§ 1905. Penalty**

Any operator convicted of operating a passenger tramway without having been registered by the board, or after his registration has been suspended, shall be punished by a fine of \$50 per day for each day of such illegal operations.

1961, c. 325; c. 417, § 114.

## **SUBCHAPTER II**

### **SAFETY BOARD**

Sec.

- 1941. Membership.
- 1942. Term of office.
- 1943. Compensation.
- 1944. Expenditure of funds.
- 1945. Rules, regulations and codes.
- 1946. Inspections.
- 1947. —Costs paid by operators.
- 1948. Inspection reports.
- 1949. Investigation of complaints.
- 1950. Disposal of fees.

Sec.

1951. Emergency shutdowns.

1952. Orders.

1953. Forbidding operation.

1954. Hearings.

### § 1941. Membership

A Passenger Tramway Safety Board, heretofore established, shall consist of 4 appointive members and the Director of State Parks and Recreation, ex officio. The appointive members shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Council, from persons representing the following interests: 2 members from the passenger tramway industry, one of whom shall operate a rope tow, and in making such appointments consideration shall be given to recommendations made by members of the industry; one member to represent the public at large; and one member to represent insurance companies which engage in insuring passenger tramway operations, and in appointing such member consideration shall be given to recommendations made by such insurance companies. The Governor shall designate the chairman and a secretary shall be appointed by the board.

1961, c. 325.

### § 1942. Term of office

Of the first appointments, one member shall be appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of 2 years, one for a term of 3 years and one for a term of 4 years, and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Thereafter each of the appointed members shall be appointed for a term of 4 years and until his successor is appointed and qualified. Vacancies in the board shall be filled for the unexpired term.

1961, c. 325.

### § 1943. Compensation

The appointive members of the board shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses, incurred in their official duties.

1961, c. 325.

### § 1944. Expenditure of funds

The commission shall cooperate with the board and may provide office space and clerical assistance.

1961, c. 325.



**§ 1945. Rules, regulations and codes**

The board is empowered to adopt reasonable rules, regulations and codes relating to public safety in the construction, operation and maintenance of passenger tramways. The rules, regulations and codes authorized shall be in accordance with established standards, if any, and shall not be discriminatory in their application to operators of passenger tramways. Such rules, regulations and codes shall be adopted only after public hearing, notice of which shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the State at least 14 days before holding such hearing. The board shall give notice of such hearing by registered mail to each registered operator at least 14 days before holding same. At such hearing, the board shall afford any interested person an opportunity to present data, views and arguments with respect to the proposed rules, regulations or code, either orally or in written form. The board shall publish a summary of the text of any such rules, regulations and codes adopted by it, together with information as to where the full text of the same may be obtained, in a newspaper of general circulation in the State, and shall mail copies of the full text of such rules, regulations and codes to each registered operator.

1961, c. 325; c. 417, § 105.

**§ 1946. Inspections**

The board may make such inspection of the construction, operation and maintenance of passenger tramways as the board may reasonably require. The board may, at its own expense, employ other qualified engineers to make such inspections, or may borrow them from other departments in the State.

1961, c. 325.

**§ 1947. —Costs paid by operators**

The expenses in connection with making inspections under section 1946 shall be paid in the first instance by the board, provided that each operator shall, upon notification by the board of the amount due, reimburse the board for the share of the salary of board personnel engaged in making such inspections. The board shall not charge in excess of \$5 an hour for the services of its personnel in making such inspections and shall not be entitled to any reimbursement for the travelling time or expenses of such personnel. Any reimbursement shall be credited to the

special appropriation for the board to be expended for the purposes of this chapter.

1961, c. 325.

### § 1948. Inspection reports

If, as the result of an inspection, it is found that a violation of the board's rules, regulations or code exists, or a condition in passenger tramway construction, operation or maintenance exists endangering the safety of the public, an immediate report shall be made to the board for appropriate investigation and action.

1961, c. 325; c. 417, § 107.

### § 1949. Investigation of complaints

Any person may make written complaint to the board setting forth any thing or act claimed to be done or omitted to be done by any registered operator which is alleged to be in violation of any rule, regulation or code adopted by the board, or setting forth any condition in passenger tramway construction, operation or maintenance which is alleged to endanger the safety of the public. The board may investigate the matter complained of, and if it shall appear to the board that there are reasonable grounds therefor, the board shall file a complaint with the Administrative Hearing Commissioner as designated in Title 5, chapters 301 to 307, and shall proceed in accordance with the procedure set forth in Title 5, chapters 301 to 307.

1961, c. 325; c. 417, § 108; 1963, c. 412, § 23.

### § 1950. Disposal of fees

All fees collected by the board shall be credited to a special fund and be expended for the purposes of this chapter. The special fund created by this section shall not lapse but shall be carried forward from year to year.

1961, c. 325.

### § 1951. Emergency shutdowns

When facts are presented to the board, or to any member thereof, tending to show that an unreasonable hazard exists in the continued operation of a tramway, the board or member, after such verification of said facts as is practical under the circumstances and consistent with the public safety, may by an

emergency order require the operator of said tramway forthwith to cease using the same for the transportation of passengers. Such emergency order shall be in writing and notice thereof may be served by any person upon the operator or his agent immediately in control of said tramway by a true and attested copy of such order, the return of such service being shown by an affidavit on the back thereof. Such emergency shall be effective for a period not to exceed 48 hours from the time of service. Immediately after the issuance of an emergency order, the board shall conduct an investigation into the facts of the case as contemplated in section 1952, and shall take such action under said section 1952 as may be appropriate.

1961, c. 325.

### § 1952. Orders

If, after investigation, the board finds that a violation of any of its rules, regulations or code exists, or that there is a condition in passenger tramway construction, operation or maintenance endangering the safety of the public the board shall file a complaint with the Administrative Hearing Commissioner as designated in Title 5, chapters 301 to 307, and shall proceed in accordance with the procedure set forth in Title 5, chapters 301 to 307.

1961, c. 325; c. 417, § 109; 1963, c. 412, § 23.

### § 1953. Forbidding operation

If in any such case the board is of the opinion that the public safety would be unduly endangered by the use of the tramway for the transportation of passengers prior to the taking of some or all of such corrective action, it shall so order, and shall require in said order that the tramway shall not be so used until specified corrective action shall have been taken. From and after receipt of said order by the operator, said tramway shall not be used for the transportation of passengers without the approval of the board. Application for a hearing before the Administrative Hearing Commissioner under Title 5, chapters 301 to 307 shall not have the effect of suspending said order. Operation of the tramway following receipt of such order may be enjoined by the Superior Court.

1961, c. 325; c. 417, § 110; 1963, c. 412, § 23.

**§ 1954. Hearings**

Any operator aggrieved by an order of the board issued under section 1953 may, within 10 days of the service of such order upon him, apply to the Administrative Hearing Commissioner for a review of such order. It shall be the duty of the Administrative Hearing Commissioner to hear the same and make such order as the facts and the law may require.

1961, c. 325; c. 417, § 111; 1963, c. 412, § 23.

**SUBCHAPTER III****REGISTRATION**

Sec.

1991. Registration required.

1992. Application.

1993. Fees.

1994. Certificate.

1995. Suspension of registration.

**§ 1991. Registration required**

No passenger tramway shall be operated in this State, unless the operator thereof has been registered by the board.

1961, c. 325.

**§ 1992. Application**

On or before December 1st in each year every operator of a passenger tramway shall apply to the board, on forms prepared by it, for registration. The application shall contain such information as the board may reasonably require.

1961, c. 325.

**§ 1993. Fees**

A separate application for registration of any passenger tramway shall be accompanied by an annual fee to be established by the board, not to exceed the sum of \$300. When a passenger tramway is operated during both a winter and summer season, an additional fee not to exceed the annual fee may be established by the board.

1961, c. 325.

**§ 1994. Certificate**

The board, if satisfied with the facts stated in the application, shall issue a registration certificate to the operator. Each registration shall expire on November 30th next following the day of issue.

1961, c. 325.

**§ 1995. Suspension of registration**

If any such operator fails to comply with the lawful order of the board or the Administrative Hearing Commissioner under Title 5, chapters 301 to 307, and within the time fixed thereby, the board may suspend the registration of such operator for such time as it may consider necessary for the protection of the safety of the public.

1961, c. 325; c. 417, § 113; 1963, c. 412, § 23.