

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SHENNA BELLOWS
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE
OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

January 31, 2021

Honorable Joseph Baldacci, Senate Chair
Honorable Ann Matlack, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government,

Pursuant to 5 MRS §8056-A, herein is the Secretary of State's report on the progress of the *Maine Administrative Procedure Act* (APA).

During the year 2020, there were 247 proposed rule filings and 256 adopted rule filings. This represents a decrease of 48 proposed rule filings and a decrease of 15 adopted rule filings from 2019. There were 27 provisional major substantive rule adoptions submitted by agencies to the Secretary of State and the Legislature during 2020, which is an increase of 14 over 2019. During 2020, 22 new rule chapters were adopted, and 16 were repealed. At the end of 2020 there were 2,187 current rule chapters in effect and on file with the Secretary of State under the APA.

Additionally, during 2020, the cost of publishing the Wednesday rulemaking proposal notices in five daily newspapers was \$217,721. This was an increase of \$3,503 from 2019. This cost was spread among the rulemaking agencies *pro rata*. Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. §8056, sub-§1(D), notice of the adoption of rules is no longer published in the newspapers. Weekly adoption notices are included on the Bureau's (CEC) website along with the rulemaking proposal notices.

The Secretary of State solicited comments on the progress of the Maine APA by publishing a notice in five daily newspapers and on the Internet. No comments were received.

Direct access to the full text of Maine's rule chapters and regulatory agendas may be found on the Department's website at: www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules.

If you have any questions regarding the *Administrative Procedure Act*, please contact me or Julie Flynn, Deputy Secretary of State at 624-7650.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Shenna Bellows'.

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State