

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE
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SECRETARY OF STATE

SHENNA BELLOWS
SECRETARY OF STATE

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Joseph Baldacci, Senate Chair
The 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 (i.e., the APA)*.

During the year 2021, there were 244 proposed rule filings and 262 adopted rule filings. This represents a decrease of 3 proposed rule filings and an increase of 6 adopted rule filings from 2020. There were 12 provisional major substantive rule adoptions submitted by agencies to the Secretary of State and the Legislature during 2021, which is a decrease of 7 over 2020. During 2021, 29 new rule chapters were adopted, 12 were repealed, and 19 were repealed and replaced. At the end of 2021 there were 2,204 current rule chapters in effect and on file with the Secretary of State under the APA.

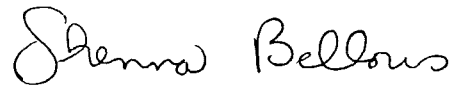
Additionally, during 2021, the cost of publishing the Wednesday rulemaking proposal notices in five daily newspapers was \$268,763. This was an increase of \$51,042 from 2020. This cost was spread among the rulemaking agencies *pro rata*. Pursuant to Chapter 380 of the *Public Laws of 2011*, notice of 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 -7736.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shenna Bellows". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State