

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT
OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

SHENNA BELLOWS
SECRETARY OF STATE

January 31, 2024

Honorable Timothy Nangle, Senate Chair
Honorable Holly Stover, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, 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 2023, there were 270 proposed rule filings and 255 adopted rule filings. This represents an increase of 35 proposed rule filings and a decrease of 2 adopted rule filings from 2022. There were 11 provisional major substantive rule adoptions submitted by agencies to the Secretary of State and the Legislature during 2023, which is a decrease of 7 from 2022. During 2023, 68 new rule chapters were adopted, 10 were repealed, and 31 were repealed and replaced. At the end of 2023 there were 2,285 current rule chapters in effect and on file with the Secretary of State under the APA.

Additionally during 2023, the cost of publishing the Wednesday rulemaking proposal notices in five daily newspapers was \$218,151. This was an increase of \$2,412 from 2022. This cost was spread among the rulemaking agencies *pro rata*. Pursuant to Title 5 MRS, §8056(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,

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State