

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
132<sup>ND</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

May 2026

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3. It establishes a preliminary review process to be completed by the State Human Resources Officer when a request for a recruitment and retention adjustment is filed. The purpose of the preliminary review is to determine the extent to which vacancy rates, turnover rates or other workforce indicators identified in the request are attributable to certain conditions that would not require a committee to be formed to evaluate the request. This preliminary review process must be completed within 30 days following the receipt of the request.
4. It requires a recruitment and retention adjustment to be reviewed at least every four years in alignment with the market pay study required pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 7061, subsection 4, paragraph B and adjusted to changes in the labor market or the overall relation of the standard pay policy to the specialized labor market.
5. It establishes an appeals process for decisions of the State Human Resources Officer.
6. It establishes that if resources within a department or agency budget do not exist to fund an approved adjustment, the State Human Resources Officer must submit the cost items for inclusion in the Governor's next operating budget. If the Legislature does not appropriate the requested funds, the department or agency is not obligated to make the adjustment.

### **LD 1934 An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting**

Effective September 30, 2026, Public Law 2025, chapter 516 requires that public outdoor lighting installed or replaced after October 1, 2026 comply with certain standards, including standards established by the American National Standards Institute and the Illuminating Engineering Society, intended to reduce the amount of unnecessary light emitted. It includes exemptions for certain types of lighting such as outdoor sports lighting, temporary lighting and required and emergency lighting. The law directs certain departments to adopt rules to implement the requirements of the law. It also provides that a municipality in the State may adopt a local ordinance to promote compliance with the provisions of this law and allows a municipality to adopt ordinances that are stricter than those required by the law.

Public Law 2025, chapter 516 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 516 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

### **LD 1969 An Act to Amend the Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act and Clarify the Definition of "Virtual Currency"**

Public Law 2025, chapter 675 makes the following changes to the Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act.

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1. It establishes virtual currency as a property type, defines the term and adds provisions regarding the presumed abandonment and liquidation of virtual currency.
2. It establishes new provisions of law or clarifies existing provisions of law governing the presumption of abandonment for certain types of accounts.
3. It prohibits charging escheat fees on certain accounts.
4. It specifies how long proceeds from an insurance policy or annuity must be retained by an insurance company or financial organization.
5. It strengthens certain confidentiality protections among other changes.

**LD 1985 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission**

Public Law 2025, chapter 518 implements the recommendations of the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission included in its annual report dated February 3, 2025 as follows.

1. It limits liability for repairs and maintenance of a public easement of an owner, lessee or occupant of property abutting a public easement.
2. It amends current law to provide municipalities and village corporations, through a vote of approval by their legislative bodies, the option to determine if they will be responsible to maintain and repair public easements or portions of public easements to a minimum level of maintenance until the legislative body votes to discontinue providing year-round repairs and maintenance.
3. It provides that county commissioners and municipal officers may designate public ways and public easements regardless of whether the municipality maintains or repairs the public easements and impose restrictions within their respective jurisdictions similar to those made by the Department of Transportation.
4. It provides an ongoing annual appropriation of \$6,500 to the Road Commission Fund program to provide expense reimbursement for members and to support the work of the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission.

Public Law 2025, chapter 518 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 518 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.