

TITLE 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 1

SOVEREIGNTY AND JURISDICTION

§1. Extent of sovereignty and jurisdiction

The jurisdiction and sovereignty of the State extend to all places within its boundaries, subject only to such rights of concurrent jurisdiction as are granted by the State over places ceded by the State to the United States. This section shall not limit or restrict the jurisdiction of the State over any person or with respect to any subject, within or without its boundaries, which jurisdiction is exercisable by reason of citizenship, residence or for any other reason recognized by law. [PL 1985, c. 802, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 512, §1 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 802, §1 (AMD).

§2. Offshore waters and submerged land

The jurisdiction of this State shall extend to and over, and be exercisable with respect to, waters offshore from the coasts of this State as follows:

1. Marginal sea. The marginal sea to its outermost limits as said limits may from time to time be defined or recognized by the United States of America by international treaty or otherwise;

2. High seas. The high seas to whatever extent jurisdiction therein may be claimed by the United States of America, or to whatever extent may be recognized by the usages and customs of international law or by any agreement, international or otherwise, to which the United States of America or this State may be party;

2-A. --harvesting. The State of Maine declares that it owns and shall control the harvesting of the living resources of the seas adjoining the coastline for a distance of 200 miles or to the furthest edge of the Continental Shelf, whichever is greater, subject only to the boundary with Canada. Control over the harvesting of these living resources shall be by licenses or permits issued by the Department of Marine Resources;
[PL 1973, c. 525 (NEW).]

3. Submerged lands. All submerged lands, including the subsurface thereof, lying under said aforementioned waters.

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 513, §22 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 525 (AMD).

§3. Ownership of offshore waters and submerged land

The ownership of the waters and submerged lands enumerated or described in section 2 shall be in this State unless it shall be, with respect to any given parcel or area, in any other person or entity by virtue of a valid and effective instrument of conveyance or by operation of law.

§4. Certain jurisdiction and ownership unimpaired

Nothing contained in sections 2 to 5 shall be construed to limit or restrict in any way:

1. Jurisdiction because of citizenship; residence. The jurisdiction of this State over any person or with respect to any subject within or without the State which jurisdiction is exercisable by reason of citizenship, residence or for any other reason recognized by law;

2. Jurisdiction over certain waters and land; ceded to and owned by United States. Jurisdiction or ownership of or over any other waters or lands thereunder, within or forming part of the boundaries of this State. Nor shall anything in sections 2 to 5 be construed to impair the exercise of legislative jurisdiction by the United States of America over any area to which such jurisdiction has been validly ceded by this State and which remains in the ownership of the United States of America.

§5. Existing jurisdiction or ownership not waived

Nothing in sections 2 to 5 shall alter the geographic area to which any statute of this State applies if such statute specifies such area precisely in miles or by some other numerical designation of distance or position. Nothing in any such statute or in sections 2 to 5 shall be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of jurisdiction or ownership by this State over or in any area to which such jurisdiction or ownership extends by virtue of sections 2 to 5 or any other provision or rule of law.

§6. Sovereignty in space

Sovereignty in the space above the lands and waters of the State is declared to rest in the State, except where granted to and assumed by the United States pursuant to a constitutional grant from the people of this State.

§7. Division of State

The State is divided into counties, districts, towns, plantations and unorganized territory.

§8. Transfer of legislative jurisdiction

1. Notice. In order to acquire all, or any measure of, legislative jurisdiction of the kind involved in the Constitution of the United States, Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 over any land or other area; or in order to relinquish such legislative jurisdiction, or any measure thereof, that may be vested in the United States; the United States acting through a duly authorized department, agency or officer shall file a notice of intention to acquire or relinquish such legislative jurisdiction, hereinafter called notice, together with a sufficient number of duly authenticated copies of the notice to meet the recording requirements of subsection 3, with the Governor. The notice must contain a description adequate to permit accurate identification of the boundaries of the land or other area for which the change in jurisdictional status is sought and a precise statement of the measure of legislative jurisdiction sought to be transferred. Immediately upon receipt of the notice, the Governor shall furnish the Attorney General with a copy of the notice and shall request the Attorney General's comments and recommendations on the notice.

[PL 2019, c. 475, §1 (AMD).]

2. Legislative approval of transfer of jurisdiction. The Governor shall transmit the notice filed pursuant to subsection 1 together with the Governor's comments and recommendations, if any, and the comments and recommendations of the Attorney General, if any, to the next session of the Legislature that is constitutionally competent to consider the transfer of jurisdiction. Unless prior to the expiration of the legislative session to which the notice is transmitted the Legislature adopts an Act approving the transfer of legislative jurisdiction as proposed in the notice, the transfer does not take effect.

[PL 2019, c. 475, §1 (AMD).]

3. Recordation. The Governor shall cause a duly authenticated copy of the notice and Act to be recorded in the registry of deeds of the county where the land or other area affected by the transfer of jurisdiction is situated, and upon such recordation the transfer of jurisdiction takes effect. If the land or other area is situated in more than one county, a duly authenticated copy of the notice and Act must be recorded in the registry of deeds of each such county.

[PL 2019, c. 475, §1 (AMD).]

4. Filing.

[PL 1981, c. 456, Pt. A, §1 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 456, §A1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 475, §1 (AMD). RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §78 (COR).

§9. Compliance with certain conditions necessary for valid transfer

In no event shall any transfer of legislative jurisdiction between the United States and this State take effect nor shall the Governor transmit any notice proposing such a transfer pursuant to section 8, subsection 2, unless in addition to the other requirements of law: [PL 1985, c. 802, §2 (AMD).]

1. Title acquired by United States. The United States of America has acquired title to such land. [PL 1985, c. 802, §3 (AMD).]

2. Jurisdiction of State to tax. This State shall have jurisdiction to tax private persons, private transactions and private property, real and personal, resident, occurring or situated within such land or other area to the same extent that this State has jurisdiction to tax such persons, transactions and property resident, occurring or situated generally within this State.

3. Service and execution of process. Any civil or criminal process, lawfully issued by competent authority of this State or any of its subdivisions, may be served and executed within such land or other area to the same extent and with the same effect as such process may be served and executed generally within this State; provided only that the service and execution of such process within land or other areas over which the Federal Government exercises jurisdiction shall be subject to such rules and regulations issued by authorized officers of the Federal Government, or of any department, independent establishment or agency thereof, as may be reasonably necessary to prevent interference with the carrying out of federal functions.

4. Jurisdiction of State and United States. This State shall exercise over such land or other area the same legislative jurisdiction which it exercises over land or other areas generally within this State, except that the United States shall not be required to forego such measure of exclusive legislative jurisdiction as may be vested in or retained by it over such land or other area pursuant to sections 8 to 10, and without prejudice to the right of the United States to assert and exercise such concurrent legislative jurisdiction as may be vested in or retained by it over such land or other area.

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 802, §§2,3 (AMD).

§10. Legislative jurisdiction transferred by operation of law unimpaired

Nothing in sections 8 to 10 shall be construed to prevent or impair any transfer of legislative jurisdiction to this State occurring by operation of law.

§11. State processes executed in places ceded

Civil, criminal, juvenile and military processes, lawfully issued by an officer of the State, may be executed in places ceded to the United States, over which a concurrent jurisdiction has been reserved for such purpose. [PL 2023, c. 605, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 605, §1 (AMD).

§12. Governor may cede 10 acres or less to United States; compensation to owner

The Governor, reserving such jurisdiction, may cede to the United States for purposes named in its Constitution any territory not exceeding 10 acres, but not including any highway; nor any public or

private burying ground, dwelling house or meetinghouse, without consent of the owner. If compensation for land is not agreed upon, the estate may be taken for the intended purpose by payment of a fair compensation, to be ascertained and determined in the same manner as and by proceedings similar to those provided for ascertaining damages in locating highways, in Title 23, chapters 201 to 207. [PL 1977, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 771, §1 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 564, §1 (AMD).

§13. Land for fortifications or navigation aids; taking and ceding to United States; compensation

Whenever the public exigencies require it, the Governor may take in the name of the State, by purchase and deed, or in the manner denoted, any lands or rights-of-way, for the purpose of erecting, using or maintaining any fort, fortification, arsenal, military connection, way, railroad, lighthouse, beacon or other aid to navigation, with all necessary rights, powers and privileges incident to their use, and may deliver possession and cede the jurisdiction thereof to the United States, on such terms as are deemed expedient. [PL 1975, c. 771, §2 (AMD).]

The owner of any land or rights taken shall have a just compensation therefor, to be determined as prescribed in section 12, provided that application is made within 5 years after the land is taken.

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 771, §2 (AMD).

§14. Survey of land to be taken; filing and recording

When the Governor determines that a public exigency requires the taking of any land or rights as provided for in section 13, the Governor shall cause the land to be surveyed, located and so described that it can be identified, and a plan thereof must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State and there recorded. The filing of the plan vests the title to that land and rights in the State of Maine or the State's grantees, to be held during the pleasure of the State and, if transferred to the United States, during the pleasure of the United States. [PL 2019, c. 475, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 771, §3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 475, §2 (AMD).

§15. Consent of Legislature to acquisition of land by United States for public buildings; record of conveyances

In accordance with the Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section VIII, Clause 17, and Acts of Congress in such cases provided, the consent of the Legislature is given to the acquisition by the United States, or under its authority, by purchase, condemnation or otherwise, of any land in this State required for the erection of lighthouses or for sites for customhouses, courthouses, post offices, arsenals or other public buildings, or for any other purposes of the government, except for the designation of property as a national monument pursuant to 54 United States Code, Section 320301 (2015). Deeds and conveyances or title papers for the same must be recorded upon the land records of the county or registry district in which the land so conveyed may lie; and in like manner may be recorded a sufficient description by metes and bounds, courses and distances, of any tracts and legal divisions of any public lands belonging to the United States set apart by the general government for either of the purposes before mentioned, by an order, patent or other official paper so describing such land. [PL 2015, c. 458, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 458, §1 (AMD).

§15-A. Consent of Legislature for federal radioactive waste storage facilities

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 519, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 381, §1 (RP).

§16. Property not to be taxed

Lands with the tenements and appurtenances acquired for the purposes mentioned in section 15 shall be and continue exempt from all state, county and municipal taxation, assessment or other charges which may be levied or imposed under the authority of this State, so far as the taxation of such property is prohibited under the Constitution and laws of the United States, so long as the said lands shall remain the property of the United States, and no longer.

§17. Acquisition of land by United States where owner disabled or unwilling; proceedings

Whenever, upon application of an authorized agent of the United States, it is made to appear to the Superior Court that the United States desires to purchase a tract of land and the right of way thereto, within the State, for the erection of a lighthouse, beacon light, range light or light keeper's dwelling, forts, batteries or other public buildings, and that any owner is a minor, or is mentally ill, or is from any cause incapable of making perfect title to said lands, or is unknown, or a nonresident, or from disagreement in price or any other cause refuses to convey such land to the United States, said court shall order notice of said application to be published in some newspaper in the county where such land lies, if any, otherwise in a paper in this State nearest to said land, once a week for 3 weeks, which notice shall contain an accurate description of said land, with the names of the supposed owners, provable in the manner required for publications of notice in Title 14, and shall require all persons interested in said land on a day specified in said notice to file their objections to the proposed purchase. At the time so specified said court shall empanel a jury, in the manner provided for the trial of civil actions, to assess the value of said land at its fair market value and all damages sustained by the owner of such land by reason of such appropriation. Such amount when so assessed, with the entire costs of said proceedings, shall be paid into the treasury of said county, and thereupon the sheriff thereof, upon the production of the certificate of the treasurer that said amount has been paid, shall execute to the United States and deliver to its agent a deed of said land, reciting the proceedings in said cause, which deed shall convey to the United States a good and absolute title to said land against all persons. The money paid into such county treasury shall there remain until ordered to be paid out by a court of competent jurisdiction.

§18. Treasurer receiving money to give bond

The court directing the money to be paid to a county treasurer, in accordance with sections 15 to 17, shall require of that treasurer a bond in double the amount ordered to be paid to that treasurer, with 2 or more sufficient sureties, or with a surety company, as surety, to be approved by that court. Such bonds must be payable to the people of the State, for the use of those persons, severally, as are entitled to that money, and must be approved and filed with the clerk of that court before payment of the money to that treasurer. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §1 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §1 (COR).

§19. Consent to certain acts of United States coast survey

Persons employed under the Government of the United States in the coast survey may enter on any land in the State and erect thereon such buildings and do such other acts as the objects of the survey require.

§20. Compensation to owners for use of land

If satisfactory compensation is not made to the owner by the officers or agents of the United States under whose direction such lands are taken, the owner may make complaint to the county

commissioners, who, after not less than 14 days' notice to the parties of the time and place of hearing, shall view the premises, hear the parties, assess the damages sustained by the taking of the land for those purposes, including the time during which it will be required for such use, as if the land were taken for highway purposes under Title 23, chapter 3, order the damages to be paid at such time as the county commissioners direct and award costs to the prevailing party. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §2 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 431, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §2 (COR).

§21. Report of county commissioners filed with Superior Court; motion for new trial

The county commissioners shall file in the office of the clerk of the Superior Court a report of their doings, which is conclusive upon the parties unless one of them within 30 days files in court a motion for a new trial, which after due notice to the opposite party may for due cause be granted, to be had in that court. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §3 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §3 (COR).

§22. Tender of amends; costs

The person entering upon land as provided in section 19 may tender to the party injured sufficient amends, and if the damages finally assessed do not exceed the tender, judgment shall be rendered against the owner for costs. Costs recovered by the prevailing party shall be taxed as in case of appeal from judgments of the District Court.

§23. Injury to works

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 696, §1 (RP).

§24. Right of entry on lands

All persons employed in the work of topographic mapping under the law are authorized to enter and cross all lands within the State, provided that in so doing no damage shall be done to private property.

§25. Topographic mapping

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Geology, Natural Areas and Coastal Resources has charge of topographic mapping on behalf of the State. The Division of Geology, Natural Areas and Coastal Resources is authorized and directed to enter into such agreements with the Director of the United States Geological Survey as will ensure the progress of the work in an efficient and economical manner. [PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. C, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 481, §A1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 502, §E32 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 556, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. KK, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. KK, §34 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. C, §1 (AMD).

§26. Leases of right to take kelp on submerged lands

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1967, c. 418 (RP).

§27. Title to certain islands

The title to all islands located in great ponds within the State and title to all islands located in the sea within the jurisdiction of the State, except such as have been previously granted away by the State or are now held in private ownership, shall remain in the State and not be sold. [PL 1965, c. 226, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 226, §1 (AMD).

§28. Usurpation of jurisdiction by foreign power; overt acts in State

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 696, §2 (RP).

§29. Consent not given for high-level radioactive waste deep geological repository

Notwithstanding any other provisions of chapter 1 or any other provision of law, the State does not consent to the acquisition by the United States, or any agent, agency or person acting under its authority or direction, of any interest in land or waters within the State to be used for the exploration, siting, construction or operation of a repository for the deep geological disposal of high-level waste, and does not cede any legislative jurisdiction over lands or waters acquired by or on behalf of the United States for such purposes. [PL 1985, c. 802, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 802, §4 (NEW).

CHAPTER 3**RULES OF CONSTRUCTION****§71. Laws**

The following rules shall be observed in the construction of statutes, unless such construction is inconsistent with the plain meaning of the enactment.

1. Acts by agents. When an act that may be lawfully done by an agent is done by one authorized to do it, the agent's principal may be regarded as having done it. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §4 (COR).]

2. And; or. The words "and" and "or" are convertible as the sense of a statute may require.

3. Authority to 3 or more. Words in any statute, charter or ordinance giving authority to 3 or more persons authorize a majority to act when the statute, charter or ordinance does not otherwise specify. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a vacancy on an elected or appointed body does not in itself impair the authority of the remaining members to act unless a statute, charter or ordinance expressly prohibits the body from acting during the period of any vacancy and does not in itself affect the validity of any action no matter when taken. [PL 2007, c. 396, §1 (RPR); PL 2007, c. 396, §4 (AFF).]

4. Corporations. Acts of incorporation shall be regarded in legal proceedings as public Acts. All special Acts of incorporation become null and void in 2 years from the day when the same take effect, unless such corporations shall have organized and commenced actual business under their charters. [PL 1971, c. 439, §2 (RPR).]

5. Dates. Wherever in the Revised Statutes or any legislative Act a reference is made to several dates and the dates given in the reference are connected by the word "to", the reference includes both the dates which are given and all intervening dates.

6. Disqualification. When a person is required to be disinterested or indifferent in a matter in which others are interested, a relationship by consanguinity or affinity within the 6th degree according to the civil law, or within the degree of 2nd cousins inclusive, except by written consent of the parties, will disqualify.

7. Gender.
[PL 1987, c. 705, §1 (RP).]

7-A. Gender. In the construction of statutes, gender-neutral construction shall be applied as provided in this subsection.

A. Whenever reasonable, as determined by the Revisor of Statutes, nouns rather than pronouns shall be used to refer to persons in order to avoid gender identification. [PL 1987, c. 705, §2 (NEW).]

B. In preparing any legislation which amends a section or larger division of statutes, the Revisor of Statutes shall be authorized to change any masculine or feminine gender word to a gender-neutral word when it is clear that the statute is not exclusively applicable to members of one sex. The Revisor of Statutes shall not otherwise alter the sense, meaning or effect of any statute. [PL 1987, c. 861, §§1, 3 (AMD).]

C. The rule of construction concerning gender on the effective date of an Act or resolve shall apply to that Act or resolve. [PL 1987, c. 861, §§2, 3 (NEW).]
[PL 1987, c. 861, §§1-3 (AMD).]

8. Severability. The provisions of the statutes are severable. The provisions of any session law are severable. If any provision of the statutes or of a session law is invalid, or if the application of either to any person or circumstance is invalid, such invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. The repeal of a severability clause located in and applicable to any title or a division of a title, chapter, section or Act, must be construed as the removal of surplus language unless the law indicates otherwise.
[PL 1991, c. 332, §1 (AMD).]

9. Singular and plural. Words of the singular number may include the plural; and words of the plural number may include the singular.

9-A. Shall; must; may. "Shall" and "must" are terms of equal weight that indicate a mandatory duty, action or requirement. "May" indicates authorization or permission to act. This subsection applies to laws enacted or language changed by amendment after December 1, 1989.
[PL 1991, c. 332, §2 (NEW).]

10. Statute Titles. Abstracts of Titles, chapters and sections, and notes are not legal provisions.

11. Statutory references. Wherever in the Revised Statutes the word "Title" or "chapter" or "subchapter" appears without definite reference, it refers to the Title or chapter or subchapter in which the word "Title" or "chapter" or "subchapter" appears; if the chapter or subchapter is given a number without reference to a numbered Title, it refers to the chapter or subchapter of the Title in which the numbered chapter or subchapter appears. Wherever in the Revised Statutes a numbered section appears without reference to a numbered Title, it refers to the section of the Title in which the numbered section appears.

Wherever in the Revised Statutes or any legislative Act a reference is made to several sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, divisions, subdivisions or sentences, the section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, division, subdivision or sentence numbers given in the reference are

connected by the word "to," the reference includes both the sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, divisions, subdivisions or sentences whose numbers are given and all intervening sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs, divisions, subdivisions and sentences.

Wherever in the Revised Statutes the designation of a division of the statutes larger than a section is numbered with the use of a Roman numeral, it may be known and cited by its Arabic equivalent.

[PL 2001, c. 710, §1 (AMD).]

12. Statutory time periods. The statutory time period for the performance or occurrence of any act, event or default that is a prerequisite to or is otherwise involved in or related to the commencement, prosecution or defense of any civil or criminal action or other judicial proceeding or any action or proceeding of the Public Utilities Commission is governed by and computed under Rule 6(a) of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure as amended from time to time, when the nature of such action or proceeding is civil, and under Rule 45(a) of the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure, as amended from time to time, when the nature of such action or proceeding is criminal.

[PL 2015, c. 431, §1 (AMD).]

13. Reporting dates. If legislation or another legislative instrument requires a report to be filed by a date certain, and the date certain falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the report is due by close of business on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

[PL 2001, c. 471, Pt. D, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 439, §2 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 85 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 788, §1 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 606 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 737, §C1 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 705, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 861, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 332, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 471, §D1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 710, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 396, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 396, §4 (AFF). PL 2015, c. 431, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §4 (COR).

§72. Words and phrases

The following rules shall be observed in the construction of statutes relating to words and phrases, unless such construction is inconsistent with the plain meaning of the enactment, the context otherwise requires or definitions otherwise provide. [PL 1969, c. 433, §1 (RPR).]

1. Adult. "Adult" means a person who has attained the age of 18 years.

[PL 1971, c. 598, §1 (AMD).]

1-A. Affirmations. When a person required to be sworn is conscientiously scrupulous of taking an oath, that person may affirm.

[RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §5 (COR).]

2. Annual meeting. "Annual meeting," applied to towns, means the annual meeting required by law for choice of town officers.

2-A. Child or children. "Child or children" means a person who has not attained the age of 18 years.

[PL 1971, c. 598, §2 (AMD).]

2-B. Full age. "Full age" means the age of 18 and over.

[PL 1971, c. 598, §2 (AMD).]

2-C. Domestic partner. "Domestic partner" means one of 2 unmarried adults who are domiciled together under long-term arrangements that evidence a commitment to remain responsible indefinitely for each other's welfare.

[PL 2021, c. 567, §1 (NEW).]

3. General rule. Words and phrases shall be construed according to the common meaning of the language. Technical words and phrases and such as have a peculiar meaning convey such technical or peculiar meaning.

4. Grantee. "Grantee" means the person to whom a freehold estate or interest in land is conveyed.

5. Grantor. "Grantor" means the person who conveys a freehold estate or interest in land.

6. Highway. "Highway" may include a county bridge, county road or county way.

6-A. Infant. "Infant" means a person who has not attained the age of 18 years.
[PL 1971, c. 598, §3 (AMD).]

7. Inhabitant. "Inhabitant" means a person having an established residence in a place.

8. Insane person.
[PL 1977, c. 266 (RP).]

9. Issue. "Issue," applied to the descent of estates, includes all lawful lineal descendants of the ancestor.

10. Land or lands. "Land" or "lands" includes lands and all tenements and hereditaments connected therewith, and all rights thereto and interests therein.
[RR 2013, c. 2, §1 (COR).]

10-A. Lawful age. "Lawful age" means the age of 18 and over.
[PL 1971, c. 598, §4 (AMD).]

10-B. Legal age. "Legal age" means the age of 18 and over.
[PL 1971, c. 598, §4 (AMD).]

11. Majority. "Majority" when used in reference to age shall mean the age of 18 and over.
[PL 1971, c. 598, §5 (AMD).]

11-A. Minor or minors. "Minor or minors" means any person who has not attained the age of 18 years.
[PL 1971, c. 598, §6 (AMD).]

11-B. Minority. "Minority" when used in reference to age shall mean under the age of 18.
[PL 1971, c. 598, §6 (AMD).]

11-C. Month. "Month" means a calendar month.
[PL 1969, c. 433, §6 (RPR).]

12. Municipal officers. "Municipal officers" means the mayor and municipal officers or councilors of a city, the members of the select board or councilors of a town and the assessors of a plantation.
[RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §6 (COR).]

13. Municipality. "Municipality" includes cities, towns and plantations, except that "municipality" does not include plantations in Title 10, chapter 110, subchapter IV; or Title 30-A, Part 2.
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §§1, 106 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

14. Oath. "Oath" includes an affirmation, when affirmation is allowed.

15. Person. "Person" may include a body corporate.

16. Pledge; mortgage, etc. The terms "pledge," "mortgage," "conditional sale," "lien," "assignment" and like terms, when used in referring to a security interest in personal property shall include a corresponding security interest under Title 11, the Uniform Commercial Code.

17. Real estate. "Real estate" includes lands and all tenements and hereditaments connected therewith, and all rights thereto and interests therein.

17-A. Registered apprenticeship. "Registered apprenticeship" means an apprenticeship program registered with the Maine Apprenticeship Program in accordance with Title 26, chapter 37. [PL 2011, c. 491, §1 (AMD).]

18. Registered mail. The words "registered mail" when used in connection with any requirement for notice by mail shall mean either registered mail or certified mail.

19. Seal, corporate. Whenever a corporate seal is used or required on any instrument, an impression made on the paper of such instrument by the seal of the corporation, without any adhesive substance, shall be deemed a valid seal. A seal of a corporation upon a certificate of stock, corporate bond or other corporate obligation for the payment of money may be facsimile, engraved or printed. [PL 1971, c. 439, §3 (AMD).]

20. Seal, court. When the seal of a court, magistrate or public officer is to be affixed to a paper, the word "seal" may mean an impression made on the paper for that purpose with or without wafer or wax.

21. State. "State," used with reference to any organized portion of the United States, may mean a territory or the District of Columbia. [PL 1965, c. 513, §1 (AMD).]

22. State paper. "State paper" means the newspaper designated by the Legislature, in which advertisements and notices are required to be published. [PL 1973, c. 625, §1 (AMD).]

23. Sworn. "Sworn," "duly sworn" or "sworn according to law," used in a statute, record or certificate of administration of an oath, refers to the oath required by the Constitution or laws in the case specified, and includes every necessary subscription to such oath. [RR 2013, c. 2, §2 (COR).]

24. Timber and grass. "Timber and grass," when used in reference to the public reserved lots, so called, in unorganized territory in the State, means all growth of every description on said lots. [RR 2013, c. 2, §2 (COR).]

25. Town. "Town" includes cities and plantations, unless otherwise expressed or implied.

26. Under age. "Under age" means under the age of 18. [PL 1971, c. 598, §7 (AMD).]

26-A. United States. "United States" includes territories and the District of Columbia. [PL 1969, c. 433, §7 (RPR).]

26-B. Unsealed instruments, when given effect of sealed instruments in any written instrument. A recital that such instrument is sealed by or bears the seal of the person signing the same or is given under the hand and seal of the person signing the same, or that such instrument is intended to take effect as a sealed instrument, shall be sufficient to give such instrument the legal effect of a sealed instrument without the addition of any seal of wax, paper or other substance or any semblance of a seal by scroll, impression or otherwise; but the foregoing shall not apply in any case where the seal of a court, public office or public officer is expressly required by the Constitution, by statute or by rule of the court to be affixed to a paper, nor shall it apply in the case of certificates of stock of corporations. The word "person" as used in this subsection shall include a corporation, association, trust or partnership. [PL 1969, c. 590, §2 (NEW).]

27. Vacant and vacancy. "Vacant" and "vacancy" as applied to public office shall comprise and include all cases where the person elected or appointed to such office resigns therefrom or dies while

holding the same or, being elected or appointed, is ineligible, dies or becomes incapacitated before qualifying as required by law.

28. Written and in writing. "Written" and "in writing" include printing and other modes of making legible words. When the signature of a person is required, that person must write it or make that person's mark, but the signatures upon all commissions or the signatures on interest coupons annexed to a corporate bond or other corporate obligation may be facsimiles, engraved or printed. The signatures of any officer or officers of a corporation upon a corporate bond or other corporate obligation, other than interest coupons, may be facsimiles, engraved or printed, on condition that such bond or obligation is signed or certified by a trustee, registrar or transfer agent. In case any officer who has signed or whose facsimile signature has been placed upon such corporate bond, other corporate obligation or interest coupon has ceased to be an officer before such corporate bond or other corporate obligation is issued, it may be issued by the corporation with the same effect as if that person were an officer at the date of its issue.

[RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §7 (COR).]

29. Will. "Will" includes a codicil.

30. Year. "Year" means a calendar year, unless otherwise expressed. "Year," used for a date, means year of our Lord.

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 513, §1 (AMD). PL 1969, c. 113 (AMD). PL 1969, c. 433, §§1-7 (AMD). PL 1969, c. 590, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 439, §§3,4 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 598, §§1-7 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 625, §1 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 628, §1 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 770, §1 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 777, §1 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 266 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 390, §1 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 479, §1 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 698, §1 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 737, §§C1,C106 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,C10 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 630, §B1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 491, §1 (AMD). RR 2013, c. 2, §§1, 2 (COR). PL 2021, c. 275, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 567, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §§5-7 (COR).

§73. Majority

The common law rule that a person is a minor to the age of 20 is abrogated and persons 18 years of age or over are declared to be of majority for all purposes. [PL 1971, c. 598, §8 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 433, §8 (NEW). PL 1971, c. 598, §8 (AMD).

§74. Revision authorized

The following revisions to the laws of Maine are authorized: [PL 1977, c. 78, §1 (NEW).]

1. References to Executive Council in public laws. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after January 4, 1977, wherever in any public law, whether allocated to the Maine Revised Statutes or not, the words "Executive Council" and "council" used as an abbreviation for Executive Council, or any other reference to the Executive Council appear, the public laws shall read as if those words were not contained in that public law. This section shall not affect any application of any public law prior to January 4, 1977. The Revisor of Statutes may assist any republication of any public law after January 4, 1977, to ensure deletion of any reference in that public law to the Executive Council.

[PL 1985, c. 737, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]

2. References to Executive Council in private and special laws. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after January 4, 1977, wherever in any private and special law the words "Executive Council" and "council" used as an abbreviation for Executive Council, or any other reference to the Executive Council appear the private and special law shall read as if those words were not contained in that law. This section shall not affect any application of any private and special law prior to January 4,

1977. The Revisor of Statutes may assist any republication of any private and special law after January 4, 1977, to ensure deletion of any reference to the Executive Council.

[PL 1985, c. 737, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 78, §1 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 737, §B1 (AMD).

CHAPTER 4

STATUTORY MAINTENANCE

§91. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

1. Conflicting enactments. "Conflicting enactments" means multiple enactments, amendments, repeals, reallocations or reenactments, or any combination of these actions, that affect the same statutory unit and that have been adopted by multiple Acts passed within one legislative session or within a regular legislative session and any special sessions preceding the next regular legislative session that do not refer to each other.

[PL 1991, c. 639, §1 (AMD).]

2. Executive director. "Executive director" means the Executive Director of the Legislative Council appointed under Title 3, section 162.

[PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

3. Revisor. "Revisor" means the Revisor of Statutes, or the person under Title 3, section 162 who is responsible for the form and format of legislative instruments.

[PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

4. Revisor's change. "Revisor's change" means a change made in the course of update under the authority of section 93.

[PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

5. Revisor's report. "Revisor's report" means the post-update report made by the revisor pursuant to section 95. This report may be cited as Revisor's Report 19XX, c. X, §X, Revisor's Report 2XXX, c. X, §X, RR 19XX, c. X, §X or RR 2XXX, c. X, §X.

[PL 2001, c. 471, Pt. D, §2 (AMD).]

6. Revision clause. "Revision clause" means a section of a law that is not allocated to the Maine Revised Statutes and that changes a term throughout the laws and instructs the revisor to implement the revision as part of update.

[PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

7. Statutory unit. "Statutory unit" means a title, subtitle, part, subpart, chapter, subchapter, article, subarticle, section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, division or subdivision of the laws of Maine.

[PL 1991, c. 639, §1 (AMD).]

8. Update. "Update" means the process by which enactments, amendments, repeals, reallocations or reenactments from a legislative session or sessions are integrated into the statutory data base of the Maine Revised Statutes.

[PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 639, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 471, §D2 (AMD).

§92. Statutory data base; update

The executive director shall ensure that the legislative staff maintains a statutory data base that contains the text of the Maine Revised Statutes and the appropriate history of each statutory unit. [PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

The revisor shall update the statutory data base at least annually after the close of each regular legislative session and may update the data base more frequently. [PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

The Legislative Council shall adopt policies governing access to and publication of the data contained in the statutory data base. [PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).

§93. Administrative changes and corrections

The revisor may make the following changes or corrections, when the corrections do not alter the sense or meaning of the laws, without specific legislative action as part of the statutory data base update. [PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

1. Misspellings. Misspelled words may be corrected.
[PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

2. Histories. Erroneous amending clauses or statutory histories may be corrected.
[PL 1991, c. 639, §2 (AMD).]

3. Cross-references. Cross-references in statutory units may be changed to agree with new, amended, reenacted, renumbered, relettered, reallocated or corrected statutory units.
[PL 1991, c. 639, §2 (AMD).]

4. Dates. Obsolete temporal references may be removed and the appropriate calendar date for the phrase "effective date of this Act" or other phrases of similar meaning may be substituted.
[PL 1991, c. 639, §2 (AMD).]

5. Capitalization. Improper capitalization may be corrected.
[PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

6. Headnotes. Descriptive headings of titles, chapters, sections or subsections may be edited or added to briefly and clearly indicate the subject matter of the title, chapter, section or subsection.
[PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

7. Renumbering; relettering. The numbering or lettering of statutory units, including duplicative numbering or lettering created by conflicting enactments, may be corrected or properly arranged.
[PL 1991, c. 639, §2 (AMD).]

8. Punctuation. Punctuation, including hyphenization, may be corrected.
[PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

9. Revision clauses. Grammatical changes necessary for the proper implementation of changes in nomenclature or terminology enacted by a revision clause may be made.
[PL 1991, c. 639, §2 (AMD).]

10. Errors. Obvious clerical, typographical or grammatical errors may be corrected.
[PL 1991, c. 639, §2 (AMD).]

11. Gender. Gender-specific terms that occur in a statutory unit being corrected may be changed to gender-neutral terms and necessary grammatical changes to properly use the gender-neutral terms may be made.
[PL 1991, c. 639, §3 (NEW).]

Any change made by the revisor may not change the substantive meaning of any statutory unit. Any error or inadvertent substantive change made by the revisor must be construed as a clerical error and given no effect. If the revisor is in doubt whether a specific change is authorized by this section, the revisor may not make the change but shall incorporate the proposed change into the legislation authorized by section 94. [PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 639, §§2,3 (AMD).

§94. Omnibus errors and inconsistencies bill

The revisor shall prepare legislation containing proposed changes and consolidations identified but not made under section 93. The legislation may also contain any other statutory errors or inconsistencies identified by the revisor. The legislation must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters, with a copy to the executive director. [PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).

§95. Report and publication

The revisor shall submit an annual revisor's report containing a description of all changes made pursuant to section 93 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by October 1st of the year in which the changes have been made and shall provide copies of the report to the Secretary of State, to the executive director and to the publisher of the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated. The publisher shall incorporate the changes made in the report in all subsequent publications of the laws. The revisor's report must be published annually in the Laws of Maine. Changes made in the revisor's report take effect on October 1st of the year in which the report is made unless otherwise indicated in which case the changes take effect as specified. [PL 1991, c. 639, §4 (AMD).]

If the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters disagrees with any change contained in the revisor's report, the committee may instruct the revisor to make appropriate corrections during the next update, may amend the legislation authorized by section 94 to reverse the change or may report out legislation overriding any revisor's change. [PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 336 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 639, §4 (AMD).

CHAPTER 5

COMMEMORATIVE DAYS AND WEEKS

§111. National Arbor Day

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 214, §2 (RP).

§111-A. Arbor Week

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting apart the 3rd full week in May as Arbor Week, recommending its observance by the public in the planting of trees, shrubs and vines, in the

promotion of forest growth and culture, in the adornment of public and private grounds, places and ways, and in such other efforts and undertakings as harmonize with the general character of the week. The Governor shall recommend that the week be observed in rural and suburban schools by exercises appropriate to Arbor Week. [PL 2019, c. 475, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 214, §3 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 475, §3 (AMD).

§112. Poetry Day

The State of Maine designates October 15th as Poetry Day, recommending that in the week following schools, churches, libraries, clubs and organizations, the newspapers, radio and television give recognition to the poets who have helped or are helping to make Maine famous in the field of poetry throughout the world.

§113. American History Month

The month of February of each year is designated as American History Month and the Governor of the State of Maine shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State of Maine to observe the month of February as such in schools and other suitable places with appropriate ceremony and activity. [PL 1967, c. 53 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1967, c. 53 (NEW).

§114. Armistice Day

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 12, §1 (NEW). PL 1973, c. 114, §1 (RP).

§115. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 7 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 787, §1 (RP).

§116. Statehood Day

March 15th of each year is designated as Statehood Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe the day in schools and other suitable places with appropriate ceremony and activity. Statehood Day commemorates the admission of Maine as a state into the United States of America and the ideals and wisdom of those people who have formed Maine's history and traditions. The Department of Education shall make appropriate information available to the people and the schools within the limits of its budget. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §8 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 642 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §A1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §8 (COR).

§117. Chester Greenwood Day

December 21st of each year shall be designated as Chester Greenwood Day and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State of Maine to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate ceremony and activity. Chester Greenwood Day shall commemorate and honor Chester Greenwood, whose inventive genius and native ability, which contributed much to

the enjoyment of Maine's winter season, marked him as one of Maine's outstanding citizens. [PL 1977, c. 262 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 262 (NEW).

§118. Maine Cultural Heritage Week

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting aside that week containing Statehood Day, March 15th, as Maine Cultural Heritage Week. [PL 1979, c. 294 (NEW).]

The proclamation shall recall Maine's lengthy and important traditions in all the arts including literature, the performing arts and the plastic arts and shall acknowledge the many contributions made by Maine's citizens to folk arts and crafts. [PL 1979, c. 294 (NEW).]

The proclamation shall recommend the observance of Maine Cultural Heritage Week with appropriate celebration and activity, including public celebration and activity in Maine's schools, colleges, universities, theaters, museums, studios, galleries and workshops. [PL 1979, c. 294 (NEW).]

The Maine Arts Commission shall make appropriate information available to the people and the schools within the limits of its budget. [PL 1985, c. 763, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 294 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 763, §A1 (AMD).

§119. R. B. Hall Day

The last Saturday in June of each year shall be designated R. B. Hall Day and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate ceremony and activity. R. B. Hall Day shall commemorate and honor R. B. Hall, an internationally recognized composer. Recognized primarily as a composer of marches, he was an accomplished conductor and cornet soloist, whose creative talent and native ability marked him as one of Maine's outstanding citizens. [PL 1981, c. 246 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 246 (NEW).

§120. Saint Jean-Baptiste Day

June 24th of each year shall be designated as Saint Jean-Baptiste Day and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate ceremonies. Saint Jean-Baptiste Day shall commemorate the feast of Saint John the Baptist as an important observance and show of appreciation for the significant cultural, economic and civic contributions made by Franco-Americans which have served to enrich the culture and life style of this State. [PL 1983, c. 8 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 8 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 76 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 480, §A1 (RAL).

§121. Maine Clean Water Week

The first full week in June of each year shall be designated Maine Clean Water Week. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe the week with appropriate ceremony and activity. [PL 1983, c. 76 (NEW); PL 1983, c. 480, Pt. A, §1 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 76 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 480, §A1 (RAL).

§122. National Women's History Week**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 719, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §A2 (AMD). MRSA T. 1 §122 (RP).

§123. Sailors' Memorial Day

The 2nd Sunday in June is designated as Sailors' Memorial Day and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in honor of the people of the State who have been lost at sea. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §9 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 21 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 41, §1 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 737, §A1 (RPR). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §9 (COR).

§124. Maine Business Women's Week

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting aside the 3rd full week in October as Maine Business Women's Week. The proclamation must invite and urge the people of the State to observe the week in schools and other suitable places with appropriate ceremony and study. The Department of Education may make appropriate information available to the people and the schools within the limits of its budget. [PL 1995, c. 625, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 31, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §A3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 625, §A1 (AMD).

§125. Alcohol Awareness Week

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting aside the first full week in December of each year as Alcohol Awareness Week. The proclamation shall invite and urge citizens, appropriate service agencies, schools and other suitable organizations and groups to observe this week through appropriate activities. [PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 737, §A2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).

§126. Samantha Smith Day

The first Monday in June of each year is designated as Samantha Smith Day, in memory of Samantha Smith whose birthday was June 29th. The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging the people of this State to observe the day in schools and other suitable places with appropriate ceremony and activity. Samantha Smith Day shall commemorate and honor Samantha Smith whose vision and inspiring message for peace and brotherhood opened the door to greater understanding and friendship among nations of the world. The Department of Education shall make appropriate information available to the people and the schools within the limits of its budget. [PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. A, §4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 82 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §A4 (AMD).

§127. Maine Merchant Marine Day

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting aside May 22nd as Maine Merchant Marine Day. The proclamation shall invite and urge the people of the State to observe the day in schools and other suitable places with appropriate ceremony and study. The Maine Maritime Academy

and the Department of Education may make appropriate information available to the people and the schools within the limits of their budgets. [PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. A, §5 (AMD).]

The purpose of commemorating the United States Merchant Marines is to recognize the courage and heroism of merchant mariners who have served the nation in times of national emergencies. Merchant mariners have valiantly served the nation during periods of international conflict by serving as combatant crews on Letters of Marque during the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 and on armed vessels during the Civil War. In World War I and World War II, they served on ships equipped with naval armament while transporting supplies and troops between the home front and war fronts. Thousands of merchant mariners have been killed, captured or injured in the defense of the nation. [PL 1987, c. 140, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 140, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §A5 (AMD).

§128. Garden Week

Garden Week shall be established as the first full week of June of each year and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe the week with appropriate celebration and activities. [PL 1987, c. 226 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 226 (NEW).

§129. Margaret Chase Smith Day

December 14th of each year shall be designated as Margaret Chase Smith Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State of Maine to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate ceremony and activity. Margaret Chase Smith Day shall commemorate and honor Margaret Chase Smith who distinguished herself as a political leader of this nation and as one of Maine's outstanding citizens. [PL 1987, c. 610 (NEW).]

The Department of Education shall make appropriate information available to the people and schools within the limits of its budget. [PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. A, §6 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 610 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §A6 (AMD).

§130. Edmund S. Muskie Day

March 28th of each year shall be designated as Edmund S. Muskie Day and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State of Maine to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate ceremony and activity. Edmund S. Muskie Day shall commemorate and honor Edmund Sixtus Muskie whose distinguished career as a political leader of this State and nation marks him as one of Maine's outstanding citizens. [PL 1987, c. 610 (NEW).]

The Department of Education shall make appropriate information available to the people and schools within the limits of its budget. [PL 1989, c. 700, Pt. A, §7 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 610 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 700, §A7 (AMD).

§131. Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day

April 9th of each year shall be designated as Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate ceremony and activity. Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day shall commemorate, honor and recognize the courage and heroism of all former prisoners of war

who served the nation in times of crisis and emergency and who were captured in the defense of the nation. [PL 1989, c. 37 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 37 (NEW).

§132. Deaf Culture Week

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting aside the last full week in September as Deaf Culture Week. The proclamation must invite and urge the people of the State to observe the week in schools and other suitable places with appropriate ceremony and study. The Department of Education shall make appropriate information available to the people and the schools within its budget. [PL 1991, c. 279, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 279, §1 (NEW).

§133. Landowner Recognition Day

The 3rd Saturday of September of each year is designated as Landowner Recognition Day and the Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate activity. [PL 1995, c. 142, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 142, §1 (NEW).

§134. Children's Day

In recognition of the value and importance of every child, the State designates the last Friday in September as Children's Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging citizens, businesses and organizations to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity. [PL 1997, c. 74, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 74, §1 (NEW).

§135. Firefighter's Recognition Day

In recognition of the value and importance of firefighters, the State designates the first Saturday in October as Firefighter's Recognition Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity. [PL 1999, c. 19, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 19, §1 (NEW).

§136. Prisoner of War - Missing in Action Recognition Day

The Governor annually shall issue a proclamation designating the 3rd Friday in September as Prisoner of War - Missing in Action Recognition Day in remembrance of the courage and plight of American prisoners of war and those missing in action. The proclamation must recommend that the day be observed in an appropriate manner. The State of Maine flag must be flown at half staff when the Governor considers it appropriate. The Governor may issue the proclamation through a media outlet as defined in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 10-B. The Department of Education and the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services shall make appropriate information available to citizens, schools, organizations and groups within the limits of their budgets. [PL 2011, c. 490, §1 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 377, §6 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 302, §1 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 490, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 377, §6 (REV).

§137. Organ Donor Awareness Day

December 3rd is designated as Organ Donor Awareness Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State of Maine to observe the day with appropriate activity. The first annual Organ Donor Awareness Day will commemorate the life of Kate James, who was born December 3, 1980 and who passed away March 6, 1999 at 18 years of age while awaiting a double lung transplant. The observance is created to make Maine citizens aware of the importance of donating organs. In each subsequent year, the Governor, in consultation with Maine organ donation agencies and organizations, shall designate an organ donor, recipient or listed individual to be recognized on that year's Organ Donation Awareness Day. [PL 1999, c. 479, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 479, §1 (NEW).

§138. Major-General Henry Knox Day

July 25th of each year is designated as Major-General Henry Knox Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places and with appropriate ceremony and activity. The Department of Education shall make appropriate information available to the people and the schools, within its budget, to honor Major-General Henry Knox, of Thomaston, Revolutionary War general and hero and Secretary of War under President George Washington. [PL 1999, c. 666, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 666, §1 (NEW).

§139. Maine Lighthouse Week

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting aside the 3rd full week in June as Maine Lighthouse Week to invite and urge the people of the State to observe this week in suitable places and with appropriate ceremony and activity to honor and commemorate the important role of lighthouses in Maine's history. [PL 2001, c. 5, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §139. Colonel Freeman McGilvery Day (As enacted by PL 2001, c. 7, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 141)

REVISOR'S NOTE: §139. Destroyer Escort Day (As enacted by PL 2001, c. 19, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 142)

REVISOR'S NOTE: §139. Maine Small Business Week (As enacted by PL 2001, c. 36, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 143)

REVISOR'S NOTE: §139. Veterans' Week (As enacted by PL 2001, c. 100, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 144)

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2001, c. 1, §§1-4 (RAL). PL 2001, c. 5, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 7, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 19, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 36, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 100, §1 (NEW).

§140. Maine Youth Field and Stream Day

The 2nd Saturday in September of each year is designated as Maine Youth Field and Stream Day. The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging the youth of this State to observe this day by participating in outdoor activities. [PL 2001, c. 68, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §140. Equal Pay Day (As enacted by PL 2001, c. 304, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 145)

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2001, c. 1, §5 (RAL). PL 2001, c. 68, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 304, §1 (NEW).

§141. Colonel Freeman McGilvery Day

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 139)

The first Saturday of September of each year is designated as Colonel Freeman McGilvery Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity. [RR 2001, c. 1, §1 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2001, c. 1, §1 (RAL).

§142. Destroyer Escort Day

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 139)

The 3rd Saturday in June of each year is designated as Destroyer Escort Day in this State, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting the people of the State to observe this day in honor of the destroyer escort ships and the people from this State who gallantly served on them as they performed antisubmarine duties, escorted convoys and tankers and performed search and rescue operations for downed pilots and survivors of ill-fated ships during World War II, the Korean Conflict and the War in Vietnam. [RR 2001, c. 1, §2 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2001, c. 1, §2 (RAL).

§143. Maine Small Business Week

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 139)

The 3rd week in May, or any other week coinciding with the week designated nationally as Small Business Week, is designated Maine Small Business Week and the Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging the citizens and small businesses throughout the State to promote small businesses and the free enterprise system by observing that week with appropriate ceremonies and activities. [RR 2001, c. 1, §3 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2001, c. 1, §3 (RAL).

§144. Veterans' Week

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 139)

Each political subdivision and school administrative unit is encouraged to celebrate Veterans' Week during the week, commencing on a Sunday and ending on the next following Saturday, within which November 11th, Veterans' Day, occurs. The celebration may include recognition of the contribution of veterans of the United States and the military service to the foundation of freedom. The celebration may also include public proclamations, appropriate parades and ceremonies and the introduction of curricula in school systems recognizing the efforts of veterans and their contribution to our way of life. During this week, schools may provide an opportunity for convocations and assemblies and in such instances shall make efforts to invite veterans and others to speak on the subject and to cooperate with local veterans' organizations and groups in the celebration of Veterans' Week. [RR 2001, c. 1, §4 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2001, c. 1, §4 (RAL).

§145. Equal Pay Day

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 140)

The first Tuesday in April is designated as Equal Pay Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this day with appropriate activity. [RR 2001, c. 1, §5 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2001, c. 1, §5 (RAL).

§146. Maine Week of Heroes

Each political subdivision and school administrative unit is encouraged to observe a Maine Week of Heroes during the week, commencing on a Sunday and ending on the next following Saturday, within which September 11th occurs. The observance may include public proclamations, appropriate ceremonies and the introduction of curricula in school systems recognizing the efforts of heroic people in Maine communities, such as active duty military personnel, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, law enforcement officers, members of the National Guard, members of the United States Coast Guard, United States military veterans and all other heroes who have given their courageous service without regard for their own lives or personal safety to benefit the people of this great land and to serve the needs of the citizens of the State. [PL 2003, c. 56, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §146. Maine Aviation and Aerospace Education Week (As enacted by PL 2003, c. 256, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 147)

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2003, c. 1, §1 (RAL). PL 2003, c. 56, §1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 256, §1 (NEW).

§147. Maine Aviation and Aerospace Education Week

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 146)

The 3rd week in April is designated Maine Aviation and Aerospace Education Week. The Department of Transportation, Office of Passenger Transportation shall participate in the planning of events for this week under the auspices of the Maine Aeronautics Association. [RR 2003, c. 1, §1 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2003, c. 1, §1 (RAL).

§148. Family Reunion Day

In recognition of the value and importance of families, the State designates the Monday after the first full weekend of August as Family Reunion Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging citizens, businesses and organizations to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity. [PL 2005, c. 8, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §148. Community Giving Week (As enacted by PL 2005, c. 20, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 149)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 8, §1 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 20, §1 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 397, §B1 (RAL). PL 2005, c. 397, §B2 (AFF).

§149. Community Giving Week

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 148)

The 3rd full week in November of each year is designated as Community Giving Week, and the Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging people of the State to observe this week in suitable places with appropriate activity. [PL 2005, c. 397, Pt. B, §1 (RAL); PL 2005, c. 397, Pt. B, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 397, §B1 (RAL). PL 2005, c. 397, §B2 (AFF).

§150. Cancer Awareness Week

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting aside November 1st to November 7th each year as Cancer Awareness Week and November 1st as Lung Cancer Awareness Day. The proclamation must invite and urge citizens, health agencies, schools and other suitable organizations and groups to observe this week through appropriate activities. [PL 2007, c. 27, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §150. Missing Persons Day (As enacted by PL 2007, c. 28, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 150-B)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 27, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 28, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §1 (RAL).

§150-A. Cold War Victory Day

In recognition of the long and costly struggle of the Cold War, from the end of World War II to the fall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the State designates the first day of May as Cold War Victory Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging citizens, businesses and organizations to observe the day with appropriate activity to celebrate democracy's victory. [PL 2007, c. 330, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 330, §1 (NEW).

§150-B. Missing Persons Day**(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 150)**

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation establishing May 25th as Missing Persons Day. The proclamation must invite and urge citizens, law enforcement agencies, family service agencies and other suitable organizations and groups to observe this day through appropriate activities. [PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §1 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §1 (RAL).

§150-C. Native American Veterans Day

The Governor annually shall issue a proclamation designating June 21st as Native American Veterans Day in remembrance of the courage and dedicated service of Native American members of the United States Armed Forces, and the Governor shall urge the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places and with appropriate ceremony and activity. [PL 2009, c. 51, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 51, §1 (NEW).

§150-D. Wyeth Day

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation designating July 12th of each year as Wyeth Day in recognition of the birthday of Andrew Wyeth, one of America's great artists. The observance is

created to honor Andrew Wyeth, who had long and lasting ties with this State, and his family and their strong contributions to the State's artistic and cultural heritage and is meant to coincide with appropriate commemorative activities throughout the State. The Department of Education shall make appropriate information available to the people and the schools within the limits of its budget. [PL 2009, c. 210, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 210, §1 (NEW).

§150-E. Lyme Disease Awareness Month

The month of May of each year is designated as Lyme Disease Awareness Month, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe the month through appropriate activities. During the month, the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall make information available to the public to improve education and awareness about the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease that is consistent with the recommendations of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. [PL 2009, c. 494, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 494, §1 (NEW).

§150-F. Governor William King Day

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation indicating March 16th of each year as Governor William King Day in honor of the first Governor of Maine, a proponent of statehood for Maine. [PL 2011, c. 17, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §150-F. Juneteenth Independence Day (As enacted by PL 2011, c. 53, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 150-H)

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2011, c. 1, §1 (RAL). PL 2011, c. 17, §1 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 53, §1 (NEW).

§150-G. Vietnam War Veterans Day

In recognition of the service and sacrifice of those veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served during the Vietnam War, the State designates March 29th of each year as Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity. [PL 2021, c. 525, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 92, §1 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 525, §1 (AMD).

§150-H. Juneteenth Independence Day

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 150-F)

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation designating the 3rd Saturday in June as Juneteenth Independence Day to commemorate the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the South by Union General Gordon Granger in 1865, 2 1/2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. [RR 2011, c. 1, §1 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2011, c. 1, §1 (RAL).

§150-I. Maine Korean War Veteran Recognition Day

In recognition of the service and contributions of those veterans of the United States Armed Forces who served during the Korean War, the State designates July 27th of each year as Maine Korean War Veteran Recognition Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity. [PL 2013, c. 26, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 26, §1 (NEW).

§150-J. Invite Your Maine Legislator to School Month

January is designated Invite Your Maine Legislator to School Month, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging teachers, school administrators and Legislators to observe this month through appropriate activities, including inviting Legislators to visit school classrooms to meet with teachers, school administrators and students in order to promote increased knowledge among Legislators of the prekindergarten to grade 12 public education programs provided to students in their legislative districts. [PL 2013, c. 103, §1 (NEW).]

Within available resources, the Department of Education shall make appropriate information available to teachers, school administrators and students through the department's publicly accessible website. [PL 2013, c. 103, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §150-J. Maine Seniors Day (As enacted by PL 2013, c. 143, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 150-K)

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2013, c. 1, §1 (RAL). PL 2013, c. 103, §1 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 143, §1 (NEW).

§150-K. Maine Seniors Day

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 150-J)

In recognition of the service and contributions of senior citizens in the State, and for those who continue to enhance the quality of life in the State with their values and experiences, the State designates the 2nd Saturday in September of each year as Maine Seniors Day. The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity and encouraging businesses of the State to offer incentives for senior citizens to frequent their establishments. State agencies with promotional budgets may promote Maine Seniors Day prior to and on the 2nd Saturday in September. [RR 2013, c. 1, §1 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2013, c. 1, §1 (RAL).

§150-L. Native American Heritage and Culture Day

In recognition of the service and sacrifice of Maine Indian tribes since the beginning of our nation in support for its liberties, and to recognize the thousands of years of Native American heritage and the culture Maine Indian tribes have contributed to the State, the Governor annually shall issue a proclamation designating March 20th as Native American Heritage and Culture Day, and the Governor shall urge the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places and with appropriate ceremony and activity. [PL 2015, c. 19, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 19, §1 (NEW).

§150-M. Veterans in the Arts and Humanities Day

Each political subdivision and school administrative unit is encouraged to celebrate Veterans in the Arts and Humanities Day on November 1st of each year. The celebration may include recognition of

the contributions of veterans of the United States Armed Forces and their military service past and present, promotion of the significant contributions veterans have made to the arts and humanities and public awareness of the talent of those veterans now working in a variety of artistic fields. The celebration may also include public proclamations, appropriate parades and ceremonies and the introduction of curricula in school systems recognizing the efforts of veterans and their contributions to our way of life, including the arts and humanities. The Governor may annually issue a proclamation urging the people of the State to observe the day with appropriate celebration and activity. [PL 2015, c. 399, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 399, §1 (NEW).

§150-N. Maine Community Litter Cleanup Day

The first Saturday in May is designated Maine Community Litter Cleanup Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the citizens of the State to observe this day through appropriate activities such as removing litter from roads. [PL 2017, c. 41, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 41, §1 (NEW).

§150-O. Maine Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

The month of March of each year is designated as Maine Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe the month through appropriate activities and to become informed about childhood cancer. [PL 2019, c. 569, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §150-O. First Responders Day (As enacted by PL 2019, c. 570, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 150-P)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 569, §1 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 570, §1 (NEW).

§150-P. First Responders Day

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 150-O)

September 11th of each year is designated as First Responders Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe the day in schools and other suitable places and with appropriate ceremony, celebration and activity. First Responders Day commemorates and honors the significant contributions of those who put their lives in danger to keep the people of this State safe, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, game wardens, forest rangers and marine patrol officers. [RR 2019, c. 2, Pt. A, §1 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2019, c. 2, Pt. A, §1 (RAL).

§150-Q. James Weldon Johnson Day

The Governor shall annually issue a proclamation designating June 17th of each year as James Weldon Johnson Day in honor of writer and civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson. [PL 2021, c. 287, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 287, §1 (NEW).

§150-R. Safe Homes Awareness Month

The month of September of each year is designated as Safe Homes Awareness Month and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation to raise awareness among the people of the State of the importance of safety in the home and of the existence of and assistance that is available from the Safe Homes Program established in Title 25, section 7001. [PL 2021, c. 575, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 575, §1 (NEW).

§150-S. Maine Needham Day

The last Saturday in September of each year is designated as Maine Needham Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation recognizing the needham's place in the State's cultural and culinary traditions. A state agency may promote Maine Needham Day prior to and on the last Saturday in September using appropriate existing budgeted resources. [PL 2023, c. 10, §1 (NEW).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: §150-T. Maine Alewife Day (As enacted by PL 2023, c. 11, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 150-T)

REVISOR'S NOTE: §150-U. Maine Irish Heritage Day (As enacted by PL 2023, c. 47, §1 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 150-U)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 10, §1 (NEW).

§150-T. Maine Alewife Day

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 150-S)

The Saturday before Memorial Day of each year is designated as Maine Alewife Day, and the Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate activity. [PL 2023, c. 11, §1 (NEW); RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §1 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 11, §1 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §1 (RAL).

§150-U. Maine Irish Heritage Day

(REALLOCATED FROM TITLE 1, SECTION 150-S)

March 17th of each year is designated as Maine Irish Heritage Day in recognition of the contribution of Irish immigrants to the State and their descendants, and the Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe this day in suitable places with appropriate activity. [PL 2023, c. 47, §1 (NEW); RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §2 (RAL).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 47, §1 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §2 (RAL).

CHAPTER 7

TIME

§151. Standard time

1. Standard time. The standard time for the State is the time as determined by 15 United States Code, Sections 260 to 267 except that the standard time year-round for the State is the time commonly known as eastern daylight time or eastern daylight saving time, referred to in this section as eastern daylight time, if:

A. Federal law permits the year-round observation of eastern daylight time; and [PL 2019, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]

B. All the states in the eastern time zone and the District of Columbia observe eastern daylight time year-round. [PL 2019, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2019, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]

2. Secretary of State to monitor and provide public notice. The Secretary of State shall monitor whether the conditions under subsection 1, paragraphs A and B have been met and provide public notice when each has been met. When both conditions under subsection 1, paragraphs A and B have been met, the Secretary of State shall issue a public notice announcing the effective date of year-round eastern daylight time as established in subsection 3.
[PL 2019, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]

3. Effective date. Year-round eastern daylight time is effective immediately upon the fulfillment of both conditions in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B if the State is observing eastern daylight time on the date both conditions are met. Year-round eastern daylight time is effective on the next start date of eastern daylight time after both conditions in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B have been met if the State is not observing eastern daylight time on the date both of the conditions are met.
[PL 2019, c. 268, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 541, §A1 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 769, §B1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 129, §1 (RPR). PL 2019, c. 268, §1 (RPR).

CHAPTER 9

SEAL, MOTTO, EMBLEMS AND FLAGS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§201. State seal

The seal of the State is a shield, argent, charged with a pine tree (*Pinus strobus*) with a moose deer (*Alces alces*), at the foot of it, recumbent; supporters: on dexter side, a farmer, resting on a scythe; on sinister side, a sailor, resting on an anchor. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §10 (COR).]

In the foreground, representing sea and land, and under the shield, is the name of the State in large Roman capitals, to wit:

MAINE. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §10 (COR).]

The whole is surrounded by a crest, the North Star. The motto, in small Roman capitals, is in a label interposed between the shield and crest, viz.:--DIRIGO. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §10 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §10 (COR).

§202. Removal of, injury to, neglect of or refusal to deliver up state seal

Whoever intentionally removes the seal of the State of Maine from the office or custody of the Secretary of State at Augusta, intentionally secretes, defaces, injures or destroys it or, having possession or control of the seal, intentionally neglects or refuses to deliver it to the Secretary of State upon demand is guilty of a Class C crime. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §11 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 696, §3 (RPR). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §11 (COR).

§203. Use of state seal in any place but office of Secretary of State

Whoever intentionally uses the seal of the State of Maine, or takes any impression therefrom, for any purpose, in any other place than the office of the Secretary of State at Augusta, or intentionally issues, or receives and acts under any commission, record, document, parchment, instrument or paper bearing the impression of the seal, knowing the same has not been sealed in the office of the Secretary of State at Augusta, shall be guilty of a Class D crime. [PL 1977, c. 696, §4 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 696, §4 (RPR).

§204. Use of state seal for commercial purposes

No imitation, imprint, representation, facsimile or copy of the seal of the State of Maine shall be used or displayed for commercial purposes by any person, firm or corporation, except by written permission of the Governor. Any person may sell flags containing the state seal or a facsimile of the state seal. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class E crime. [PL 1977, c. 696, §5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 696, §5 (AMD).

§205. State motto

The state motto shall be "Dirigo" (I direct or I guide).

§206. State flag**(CONTAINS TEXT WITH VARYING EFFECTIVE DATES)**

(TEXT IN EFFECT PENDING REFERENDUM: See PL 2023, c. 487, §3) The flag to be known as the official flag of the State shall be of blue, of the same color as the blue field in the flag of the United States, and of the following dimensions and designs; to wit, the length or height of the staff to be 9 feet, including brass spearhead and ferrule; the fly of said flag to be 5 feet 6 inches, and to be 4 feet 4 inches on the staff; in the center of the flag there shall be embroidered in silk on both sides of the flag the coat of arms of the State, in proportionate size; the edges to be trimmed with knotted fringe of yellow silk, 2 1/2 inches wide; a cord, with tassels, to be attached to the staff at the spearhead, to be 8 feet 6 inches long and composed of white and blue silk strands. A flag made in accordance with the description given in this section shall be kept in the office of the Adjutant General as a model.

(TEXT EFFECTIVE IF REFERENDUM PASSES: See PL 2023, c. 487, §3) The flag to be known as the official flag of the State must be buff, charged with the emblem of the State, a pine tree proper, in the center, and the North Star, a mullet of 5 points, in blue in the upper corner; the star to be equidistant from the hoist and the upper border of the flag, the distance from the 2 borders to the center of the star being equal to about 1/4 of the hoist, this distance and the size of the star being proportionate to the size of the flag. A flag made in accordance with the description given in this section must be kept in the office of the Adjutant General as a model once approved by the Secretary of State. [PL 2023, c. 487, §1 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 487, §3 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 487, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 487, §3 (AFF).

§206-A. Prisoner of war - missing in action flag

1. Required. The prisoner of war - missing in action flag must be flown in the following places until all those individuals designated as prisoners of war or missing in action are released or accounted for:

- A. Above the State House; [PL 2005, c. 658, §1 (AMD).]
- B. At each National Guard facility; and [PL 2005, c. 658, §1 (AMD).]
- C. At each courthouse owned by the State on Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day as designated by section 131 and the following national holidays:
 - (1) Armed Forces Day, the 3rd Saturday in May;
 - (2) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;
 - (3) Flag Day, June 14th;
 - (4) Independence Day, July 4th;
 - (5) National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the 3rd Friday in September; and
 - (6) Veterans Day, November 11th. [PL 2005, c. 658, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 658, §1 (AMD).]

2. Optional. A municipality may display the prisoner of war - missing in action flag on a flag pole located at the main office building of the municipality whenever the flag of the United States is flown. A courthouse owned by the State may display the prisoner of war - missing in action flag on any day in addition to those required by subsection 1.

[PL 2005, c. 658, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 302, §2 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 658, §1 (AMD).

§207. Merchant and marine flag

The flag to be known as the merchant and marine flag of the State shall be of white, at the top of which in blue letters shall be the motto "Dirigo"; beneath the motto shall be the representation of a pine tree in green color, the trunk of which shall be entwined with the representation of an anchor in blue color; beneath the tree and anchor shall be the name "Maine" in blue color.

§208. State tree

The official tree of the State shall be the white pine tree.

§209. State bird

The state bird shall be the chickadee.

§210. State song

The official song of the State shall be the song entitled "State of Maine Song," words and music by Roger Vinton Snow.

§210-A. State march

The official march of the State is the march entitled "The Dirigo March," written by Leo Pepin. [PL 2011, c. 536, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 536, §1 (NEW).

§210-B. State ballad

The official ballad of the State is the ballad entitled "Ballad of the 20th Maine," as recorded and performed by the band The Ghost of Paul Revere and written by Griffin Sherry. [PL 2019, c. 250, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 250, §1 (NEW).

§210-C. State song of 21st century

The official song of the State of the 21st century is the song entitled "My Sweet Maine," written by Terry Swett. [PL 2021, c. 38, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 38, §1 (NEW).

§211. State flower

The floral emblem for the State, in the national garland of flowers, shall be the pine cone and tassel.

§212. State fish

The state fish shall be the landlocked salmon (*Salmo salar* Sebago). [PL 1969, c. 31 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 31 (NEW).

§212-A. State heritage fish

1. Eastern Brook Trout. The eastern brook trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, is a state heritage fish. [PL 2007, c. 21, §1 (NEW).]

2. Arctic Charr. The subspecies of the arctic charr, *Salvelinus alpinus oquassa*, also known as blueback charr, is a state heritage fish. [PL 2007, c. 21, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 180, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 21, §1 (RPR).

§213. Official mineral

Tourmaline shall be designated as the official mineral for the State of Maine. [PL 1971, c. 50 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 50 (NEW).

§214. State insect

The honeybee shall be designated as the official insect for the State of Maine. [PL 1975, c. 271 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 271 (NEW).

§215. State animal

The state animal shall be the moose. [PL 1979, c. 234 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1979, c. 234 (NEW).

§216. State fossil

"*Pertica quadrifaria*" shall be designated as the official fossil of the State of Maine. [PL 1985, c. 737, Pt. A, §3 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 22 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 73 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 737, §A3 (RPR).

§217. State cat

The state cat shall be the Maine coon cat. [PL 1985, c. 737, Pt. A, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 737, §A4 (NEW).

§218. State vessel

The schooner "Bowdoin" shall be the official state vessel. [PL 1987, c. 703, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 703, §1 (NEW).

§219. State berry

The wild blueberry (*vaccinium angustifolium*, aiton) is the official state berry. [PL 1991, c. 218 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 1991, c. 2, §1 (COR). PL 1991, c. 218 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 279, §2 (NEW).

§220. Official state language of the deaf community

American sign language is the official state language of the deaf community. [PL 1991, c. 279, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 1991, c. 2, §1 (RNU). PL 1991, c. 279, §2 (NEW).

§221. State herb

The herb wintergreen (*gaultheria procumbens*) is the official state herb. [PL 1999, c. 27, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 27, §1 (NEW).

§222. State soil

The Chesuncook soil series, a coarse-loamy, mixed, frigid, Typic Haplorthod, is the official state soil. [PL 1999, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 70, §1 (NEW).

§223. No enhanced protection

Designation as a state symbol under this subchapter does not confer enhanced protection under the environmental laws or any other applicable laws. [PL 1999, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1999, c. 70, §1 (NEW).

§224. State soft drink

Moxie, a registered trademarked soft drink invented by Maine-born Dr. Augustin Thompson of Union that symbolizes spirit and courage, is the official state soft drink. [PL 2005, c. 136, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 136, §1 (NEW).

§225. State treat

The whoopie pie, a baked good made of 2 cakes with a creamy frosting between them, is the official state treat. [PL 2011, c. 29, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 29, §1 (NEW).

§226. State dessert

Blueberry pie, made with wild Maine blueberries, is the official state dessert. [PL 2011, c. 29, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 29, §2 (NEW).

§227. State military history museum

The museum operated by the Maine Military Historical Society, or a successor organization, is the official state military history museum under the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Military Bureau and is known as the Maine Armed Forces Museum. [PL 2013, c. 463, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 463, §1 (NEW).

§228. State sweetener

Pure Maine maple syrup is the official state sweetener. [PL 2015, c. 70, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 70, §1 (NEW).

§229. State crustacean

The Maine lobster (*Homarus americanus*) is the official state crustacean. [PL 2015, c. 426, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 426, §1 (NEW).

§230. State rock

Granitic pegmatite is the official state rock. [PL 2023, c. 15, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 15, §1 (NEW).

§231. State butterfly

The Pink-edged Sulphur (*Colias interior*) is the official state butterfly. [PL 2023, c. 88, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 88, §1 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 2

UNIFORM FLAG LAW

§251. Short title

This subchapter may be cited as the "Uniform Flag Law."

§252. Definitions

The words "flag," "standard," "color," "ensign" or "shield," as used in this subchapter, shall include any flag, standard, color, ensign or shield, or copy, picture or representation thereof, made of any substance or represented or produced thereon, and of any size, evidently purporting to be such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield of the United States or of this State, or a copy, picture or representation thereof.

§252-A. Display

The United States flag and State of Maine flag may be flown at half staff only at such times as specified by the President of the United States or the Governor of the State of Maine. [PL 2001, c. 162, §1 (AMD).]

When the Governor considers it appropriate, the Governor may authorize the United States flag and the State of Maine flag to be flown at half staff throughout a political subdivision or a specified location or locations. [PL 2001, c. 162, §1 (NEW).]

Any United States flag, except those flags having a historical significance, when being displayed must be in good condition at all times, not tattered, not torn and not discolored. [PL 2001, c. 162, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 262, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 696, §6 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 162, §1 (AMD).

§253. Desecration

No person shall, in any manner, for exhibition or display:

1. Markings. Place or cause to be placed any word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing or advertisement of any nature upon any flag, standard, color, ensign or shield of the United States or of this State, or authorized by any law of the United States or of this State; or

2. Expose to public view. Expose to public view any such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield upon which shall have been printed, painted or otherwise produced, or to which shall have been attached, appended, affixed or annexed any such word, figure, mark, picture, design, drawing or advertisement; or

3. Merchandise. Expose to public view for sale, manufacture or otherwise, or to sell, give or have in possession for sale, for gift or for use for any purpose, any substance, being an article of merchandise, or receptacle, or thing for holding or carrying merchandise, upon or to which shall have been produced or attached any such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield, in order to advertise, call attention to, decorate, mark or distinguish such article or substance.

Any violation of this section shall be a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$50 may be adjudged. [PL 1977, c. 696, §7 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 696, §7 (AMD).

§254. Mutilation

No person shall publicly or openly mutilate, deface, defile, defy, trample upon, or by word or act cast contempt upon any such flag, standard, color, ensign or shield. [PL 1973, c. 262, §2 (AMD).]

Any violation of this section shall be a Class E crime. [PL 1977, c. 696, §8 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 262, §2 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 696, §8 (AMD).

§255. Exceptions

This subchapter shall not apply to any act permitted by the statutes of the United States or of this State, or by the United States Army and Navy regulations, nor shall they apply to any printed or written document or production, stationery, ornament, picture or jewelry whereon shall be depicted said flag, standard, color, ensign or shield with no design or words thereon and disconnected with any advertisement.

§256. Interpretation

This subchapter shall be so construed as to effectuate their general purpose and to make uniform the laws of the states which enact them.

CHAPTER 11

ACTS, RESOLVES AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

SUBCHAPTER 1

ACTS AND RESOLVES

§301. Notice of approval of public Acts

When a public Act is approved by the Governor, the Secretary of State shall give written notice thereof to the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives, describing it by its title, and the date of its approval, which shall be entered on the journal of each House.

§302. Construction and effect of repealing and amending Acts

The repeal of an Act, resolve or municipal ordinance passed after the 4th day of March, 1870 does not revive any statute or ordinance in force before the Act, resolve or ordinance took effect. The repeal or amendment of an Act or ordinance does not affect any punishment, penalty or forfeiture incurred before the repeal or amendment takes effect, or any action or proceeding pending at the time of the repeal or amendment, for an offense committed or for recovery of a penalty or forfeiture incurred under the Act or ordinance repealed or amended. Actions and proceedings pending at the time of the passage, amendment or repeal of an Act or ordinance are not affected thereby. For the purposes of this section, a proceeding shall include but not be limited to petitions or applications for licenses or permits required by law at the time of their filing. For the purposes of this section and regardless of any other action taken by the reviewing authority, an application for a license or permit required by law at the time of its filing shall be considered to be a pending proceeding when the reviewing authority has conducted at least one substantive review of the application and not before. For the purposes of this section, a substantive review of an application for a license or permit required by law at the time of application shall consist of a review of that application to determine whether it complies with the review criteria and other applicable requirements of law. [PL 1987, c. 766, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1967, c. 10 (AMD). PL 1973, c. 146 (RPR). PL 1987, c. 766, §1 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

§351. Effective date

Unless otherwise provided in the resolution submitting it, every constitutional amendment shall take effect and become part of the Constitution, on the first Wednesday of January following its adoption by the people. [PL 1973, c. 625, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 625, §2 (AMD).

§352. Proclamation and publication

Within 30 days after it appears that a constitutional amendment has been adopted, the Governor shall make proclamation thereof, and the Secretary of State shall forthwith cause such proclamation to be published in the state paper, and it shall be included in the next volume of Acts and resolves.

§353. Explanation of proposed amendments and statewide referenda

With the assistance of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General shall prepare a brief explanatory statement that must fairly describe the intent and content and what a "yes" vote favors and a "no" vote opposes for each direct initiative, bond issue, constitutional resolution or statewide referendum that may be presented to the people. The Office of Fiscal and Program Review shall prepare an estimate of the fiscal impact on state revenues, appropriations and allocations of each measure that may appear on the ballot, within the following time frames: for a direct initiative, within 15 business days after the applicant has given consent to the Secretary of State for the final language of the proposed law; and for a statewide referendum, bond issue or constitutional resolution, within 30 days after adjournment of the legislative session in which the measure was passed. The fiscal impact estimate must summarize the aggregate impact that the constitutional resolution, statewide referendum, direct initiative or bond issue will have on the General Fund, the Highway Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds and the amounts distributed by the State to local units of government. [PL 2011, c. 342, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 625, §3 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 534, §1 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 541, §A2 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 663, §1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 837, §A1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 316, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §2 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 341, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 462, Pt. D, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 538, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 342, §1 (AMD).

§354. Public comment on proposed amendments and statewide referenda; rules; fees

The Secretary of State shall adopt rules regarding the publication of public comment by proponents and opponents of direct initiatives, bond issues, constitutional resolutions or statewide referenda. These rules must include, but are not limited to, a word limit, the labeling of public comment as supporting or opposing a measure and the identification of the person or persons responsible for the comment. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Beginning with the November 2006 election and every election thereafter, the Secretary of State shall publish the public comment, along with the explanatory statement and fiscal estimate required under section 353, on a publicly accessible site on the Internet and in pamphlets distributed to the municipalities of the State. A person filing a public comment for publication shall pay a fee of \$500 to the Secretary of State. Fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in the Public Comment Publication Fund established under Title 5, section 90-D. [PL 2011, c. 342, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 316, §2 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 342, §2 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 3

REVISED STATUTES

§361. Positive law

The Legislature declares that the Maine Revised Statutes and the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated are identical as to the text of the law. Since the text of the revision has been enacted by the Legislature, it is positive law. [PL 1965, c. 425, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 425, §1 (NEW).

§362. Supplements as part of Revised Statutes

The laws contained in any current pocket parts or supplements to the Revised Statutes, printed and published hereafter under contract or otherwise as may be authorized by law, shall constitute, prima facie, a part of the Revised Statutes if such laws, as so contained, purport to represent reproduction of statutory amendments of the Revised Statutes, as stated in accompanying notes thereto and are so certified by the Secretary of State. If any such pocket parts or supplements are printed and published on a cumulative basis, then only such laws contained in the latest publication thereof shall constitute, prima facie, a part of the Revised Statutes. [PL 1965, c. 425, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 425, §1 (NEW).

§363. Secretary of State

To entitle any copy of a law published in the Revised Statutes of 1964 to be read in evidence, there must be contained in the same book a printed certificate of the Secretary of State that the copy is a correct transcript of the text of the original laws. A facsimile of the signature of the Secretary of State imprinted by or at the Secretary of State's direction upon the certificate has the same validity as the Secretary of State's written signature. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §12 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 425, §1 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §12 (COR).

CHAPTER 13

PUBLIC RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS

SUBCHAPTER 1

FREEDOM OF ACCESS

§400. Short title

This subchapter may be known and cited as "the Freedom of Access Act." [PL 2011, c. 662, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 662, §1 (NEW).

§401. Declaration of public policy; rules of construction

The Legislature finds and declares that public proceedings exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the Legislature that their actions be taken openly and that the records of their actions be open to public inspection and their deliberations be conducted openly. It is further the intent of the Legislature that clandestine meetings, conferences or meetings held on private property without proper notice and ample opportunity for attendance by the public not be used to defeat the purposes of this subchapter. [PL 1975, c. 758 (RPR).]

This subchapter does not prohibit communications outside of public proceedings between members of a public body unless those communications are used to defeat the purposes of this subchapter. [PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

This subchapter shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes and policies as contained in the declaration of legislative intent. [PL 1975, c. 758 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 483, §1 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 758 (RPR). PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).

§402. Definitions

1. Conditional approval. Approval of an application or granting of a license, certificate or any other type of permit upon conditions not otherwise specifically required by the statute, ordinance or regulation pursuant to which the approval or granting is issued. [PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW).]

1-A. Legislative subcommittee. "Legislative subcommittee" means 3 or more Legislators from a legislative committee appointed for the purpose of conducting legislative business on behalf of the committee. [PL 1991, c. 773, §1 (NEW).]

2. Public proceedings. The term "public proceedings" as used in this subchapter means the transactions of any functions affecting any or all citizens of the State by any of the following:

- A. The Legislature of Maine and its committees and subcommittees; [PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW).]
- B. Any board or commission of any state agency or authority, the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System and any of its committees and subcommittees, the Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy and any of its committees and subcommittees, the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System and any of its committees and subcommittees; [PL 1989, c. 878, Pt. A, §1 (RPR); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §4 (AFF).]
- C. Any board, commission, agency or authority of any county, municipality, school district or any regional or other political or administrative subdivision; [PL 1991, c. 848, §1 (AMD).]
- D. The full membership meetings of any association, the membership of which is composed exclusively of counties, municipalities, school administrative units or other political or administrative subdivisions; of boards, commissions, agencies or authorities of any such subdivisions; or of any combination of any of these entities; [PL 1995, c. 608, §1 (AMD).]
- E. The board of directors of a nonprofit, nonstock private corporation that provides statewide noncommercial public broadcasting services and any of its committees and subcommittees; [PL 2009, c. 334, §1 (AMD).]
- F. Any advisory organization, including any authority, board, commission, committee, council, task force or similar organization of an advisory nature, established, authorized or organized by law or resolve or by Executive Order issued by the Governor and not otherwise covered by this subsection, unless the law, resolve or Executive Order establishing, authorizing or organizing the

advisory organization specifically exempts the organization from the application of this subchapter; and [PL 2009, c. 334, §2 (AMD).]

G. The committee meetings, subcommittee meetings and full membership meetings of any association that:

- (1) Promotes, organizes or regulates statewide interscholastic activities in public schools or in both public and private schools; and
- (2) Receives its funding from the public and private school members, either through membership dues or fees collected from those schools based on the number of participants of those schools in interscholastic activities.

This paragraph applies to only those meetings pertaining to interscholastic sports and does not apply to any meeting or any portion of any meeting the subject of which is limited to personnel issues, allegations of interscholastic athletic rule violations by member schools, administrators, coaches or student athletes or the eligibility of an individual student athlete or coach. [PL 2009, c. 334, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 334, §§1-3 (AMD).]

3. Public records. The term "public records" means any written, printed or graphic matter or any mechanical or electronic data compilation from which information can be obtained, directly or after translation into a form susceptible of visual or aural comprehension, that is in the possession or custody of an agency or public official of this State or any of its political subdivisions, or is in the possession or custody of an association, the membership of which is composed exclusively of one or more of any of these entities, and has been received or prepared for use in connection with the transaction of public or governmental business or contains information relating to the transaction of public or governmental business, except:

- A. Records that have been designated confidential by statute; [PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW).]
- B. Records that would be within the scope of a privilege against discovery or use as evidence recognized by the courts of this State in civil or criminal trials if the records or inspection thereof were sought in the course of a court proceeding; [PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW).]
- C. Legislative papers and reports until signed and publicly distributed in accordance with legislative rules, and records, working papers, drafts and interoffice and intraoffice memoranda used or maintained by any Legislator, legislative agency or legislative employee to prepare proposed Senate or House papers or reports for consideration by the Legislature or any of its committees during the legislative session or sessions in which the papers or reports are prepared or considered or to which the paper or report is carried over; [PL 1991, c. 773, §2 (AMD).]

C-1. Information contained in a communication between a constituent and an elected official if the information:

- (1) Is of a personal nature, consisting of:
 - (a) An individual's medical information of any kind, including information pertaining to diagnosis or treatment of mental or emotional disorders;
 - (b) Credit or financial information;
 - (c) Information pertaining to the personal history, general character or conduct of the constituent or any member of the constituent's immediate family; or
 - (d) Complaints, charges of misconduct, replies to complaints or charges of misconduct or memoranda or other materials pertaining to disciplinary action; or
- (2) Would be confidential if it were in the possession of another public agency or official; [PL 2019, c. 667, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

D. Material prepared for and used specifically and exclusively in preparation for negotiations, including the development of bargaining proposals to be made and the analysis of proposals received, by a public employer in collective bargaining with its employees and their designated representatives; [PL 1989, c. 358, §4 (AMD).]

E. Records, working papers, interoffice and intraoffice memoranda used by or prepared for faculty and administrative committees of the Maine Maritime Academy, the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System when the subject matter is confidential or otherwise protected from disclosure by statute, other law, legal precedent or privilege recognized by the courts of this State. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to the boards of trustees and the committees and subcommittees of those boards, which are referred to in subsection 2, paragraph B; [PL 2019, c. 667, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]

F. Records that would be confidential if they were in the possession or custody of an agency or public official of the State or any of its political or administrative subdivisions are confidential if those records are in the possession of an association, the membership of which is composed exclusively of one or more political or administrative subdivisions of the State; of boards, commissions, agencies or authorities of any such subdivisions; or of any combination of any of these entities; [PL 1991, c. 448, §1 (AMD).]

G. Materials related to the development of positions on legislation or materials that are related to insurance or insurance-like protection or services which are in the possession of an association, the membership of which is composed exclusively of one or more political or administrative subdivisions of the State; of boards, commissions, agencies or authorities of any such subdivisions; or of any combination of any of these entities; [PL 1991, c. 448, §1 (AMD).]

H. Medical records and reports of municipal ambulance and rescue units and other emergency medical service units, except that such records and reports must be available upon request to law enforcement officers investigating criminal conduct; [PL 1995, c. 608, §4 (AMD).]

I. Juvenile records and reports of municipal fire departments regarding the investigation and family background of a juvenile fire setter; [PL 1999, c. 96, §1 (AMD).]

J. Working papers, including records, drafts and interoffice and intraoffice memoranda, used or maintained by any advisory organization covered by subsection 2, paragraph F, or any member or staff of that organization during the existence of the advisory organization. Working papers are public records if distributed in a public meeting of the advisory organization; [PL 2019, c. 667, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]

K. Personally identifying information concerning minors that is obtained or maintained by a municipality in providing recreational or nonmandatory educational programs or services. This paragraph does not apply to records governed by Title 20-A, section 6001 and does not supersede Title 20-A, section 6001-A; [PL 2019, c. 667, Pt. A, §2 (AMD).]

L. Records describing security plans, security procedures or risk assessments prepared specifically for the purpose of preventing or preparing for acts of terrorism, but only to the extent that release of information contained in the record could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the physical safety of government personnel or the public. Information contained in records covered by this paragraph may be disclosed to the Legislature or, in the case of a political or administrative subdivision, to municipal officials or board members under conditions that protect the information from further disclosure. For purposes of this paragraph, "terrorism" means conduct that is designed to cause serious bodily injury or substantial risk of bodily injury to multiple persons, substantial damage to multiple structures whether occupied or unoccupied or substantial physical damage sufficient to disrupt the normal functioning of a critical infrastructure; [PL 2003, c. 614, §1 (AMD).]

M. Records or information describing the architecture, design, access authentication, encryption or security of information technology infrastructure, systems and software, including records or information maintained to ensure government operations and technology continuity and to facilitate disaster recovery. Records or information covered by this paragraph may be disclosed to the Legislature or, in the case of a political or administrative subdivision, to municipal officials or board members under conditions that protect the information from further disclosure; [PL 2019, c. 667, Pt. A, §3 (AMD).]

N. Social security numbers; [PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. E, §1 (AMD).]

O. Personal contact information concerning public employees, except when that information is public pursuant to other law. For the purposes of this paragraph:

(1) "Personal contact information" means personal address, telephone number, facsimile number, e-mail address, cellular telephone number, pager number and username, password and uniform resource locator for a personal social media account as defined in Title 26, section 615, subsection 4; and

(2) "Public employee" means an employee as defined in Title 14, section 8102, subsection 1, except that "public employee" does not include elected officials; [PL 2019, c. 667, Pt. B, §3 (AMD).]

P. Geographic information regarding recreational trails that are located on private land that are authorized voluntarily as such by the landowner with no public deed or guaranteed right of public access, unless the landowner authorizes the release of the information; [PL 2011, c. 149, §1 (AMD).]

REVISOR'S NOTE: (Paragraph P as enacted by PL 2009, c. 339, §3 is REALLOCATED TO TITLE 1, SECTION 402, SUBSECTION 3, PARAGRAPH Q)

Q. **(REALLOCATED FROM T. 1, §402, sub-§3, ¶P)** Security plans, staffing plans, security procedures, architectural drawings or risk assessments prepared for emergency events that are prepared for or by or kept in the custody of the Department of Corrections or a county jail if there is a reasonable possibility that public release or inspection of the records would endanger the life or physical safety of any individual or disclose security plans and procedures not generally known by the general public. Information contained in records covered by this paragraph may be disclosed to state and county officials if necessary to carry out the duties of the officials or the Department of Corrections under conditions that protect the information from further disclosure; [PL 2015, c. 335, §1 (AMD).]

R. [PL 2017, c. 163, §1 (RP).]

S. E-mail addresses obtained by a political subdivision of the State for the sole purpose of disseminating noninteractive notifications, updates and cancellations that are issued from the political subdivision or its elected officers to an individual or individuals that request or regularly accept these noninteractive communications; [PL 2015, c. 161, §1 (AMD).]

T. Records describing research for the development of processing techniques for fisheries, aquaculture and seafood processing or the design and operation of a depuration plant in the possession of the Department of Marine Resources; [PL 2017, c. 118, §1 (AMD).]

U. Records provided by a railroad company pursuant to Title 23, section 7311, subsection 5 and records describing hazardous materials transported by the railroad company in this State, the routes of hazardous materials shipments and the frequency of hazardous materials operations on those routes that are in the possession of a state or local emergency management entity or law enforcement agency, fire department or other first responder, except that records related to a train carrying hazardous materials that has derailed at any point from a main line train track or related to

a discharge of hazardous materials transported by a railroad company that poses a threat to public health, safety and welfare are subject to public disclosure after that discharge. For the purposes of this paragraph, "hazardous material" has the same meaning as set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 105.5; and [PL 2023, c. 618, §1 (AMD).]

V. Participant application materials and other personal information obtained or maintained by a municipality or other public entity in administering a community well-being check program, except that a participant's personal information, including health information, may be made available to first responders only as necessary to implement the program. For the purposes of this paragraph, "community well-being check program" means a voluntary program that involves daily, or regular, contact with a participant and, when contact cannot be established, sends first responders to the participant's residence to check on the participant's well-being. [PL 2017, c. 118, §3 (NEW).]
[PL 2023, c. 618, §1 (AMD).]

3-A. Public records further defined. "Public records" also includes the following criminal justice agency records:

A. Records relating to prisoner furloughs to the extent they pertain to a prisoner's identity, public criminal history record information, as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8, address of furlough and dates of furlough; [PL 2013, c. 267, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]

B. Records relating to out-of-state adult probationer or parolee supervision to the extent they pertain to a probationer's or parolee's identity, public criminal history record information, as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8, address of residence and dates of supervision; and [PL 2013, c. 267, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]

C. Records to the extent they pertain to a prisoner's, adult probationer's or parolee's identity, public criminal history record information, as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8, and current address or location, unless the Commissioner of Corrections determines that it would be detrimental to the welfare of a client to disclose the information. [PL 2013, c. 267, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]
[PL 2013, c. 267, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]

4. Public records of interscholastic athletic organizations. Any records or minutes of meetings under subsection 2, paragraph G are public records.
[PL 2009, c. 334, §4 (NEW).]

5. Public access officer. "Public access officer" means the person designated pursuant to section 413, subsection 1.
[PL 2011, c. 662, §3 (NEW).]

6. Reasonable office hours. "Reasonable office hours" includes all regular office hours of an agency or official.
[PL 2011, c. 662, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 433, §1 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 243 (RPR). PL 1975, c. 483, §2 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 758 (RPR). PL 1977, c. 164, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 696, §9 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 695, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 779, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 20, §1 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 402, §A1 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 477, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 358, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 443, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 878, §§A1,2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 448, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 773, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 848, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 608, §§1-5 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 714, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 96, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 477, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 675, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO4 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 392, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 614, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 381, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 597, §1 (AMD). RR 2009, c. 1, §§1-3 (COR). PL 2009, c. 176, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 334, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 339, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 149, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 264, §1 (AMD). PL

2011, c. 320, Pt. E, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 662, §§2, 3 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 267, Pt. B, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 339, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 518, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 161, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 335, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 118, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 163, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 667, Pt. A, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 667, Pt. B, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 618, §1 (AMD).

§402-A. Public records defined

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 483, §3 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 623, §1 (RPR). PL 1975, c. 758 (RP).

§403. Meetings to be open to public; record of meetings

1. Proceedings open to public. Except as otherwise provided by statute or by section 405, all public proceedings must be open to the public and any person must be permitted to attend a public proceeding.

[PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

2. Record of public proceedings. Unless otherwise provided by law, a record of each public proceeding for which notice is required under section 406 must be made within a reasonable period of time after the proceeding and must be open to public inspection. At a minimum, the record must include:

A. The date, time and place of the public proceeding; [PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

B. The members of the body holding the public proceeding recorded as either present or absent; and [PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

C. All motions and votes taken, by individual member, if there is a roll call. [PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

3. Audio or video recording. An audio, video or other electronic recording of a public proceeding satisfies the requirements of subsection 2.

[PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

4. Maintenance of record. Record management requirements and retention schedules adopted under Title 5, chapter 6 apply to records required under this section.

[PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

5. Validity of action. The validity of any action taken in a public proceeding is not affected by the failure to make or maintain a record as required by this section.

[PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

6. Advisory bodies exempt from record requirements. Subsection 2 does not apply to advisory bodies that make recommendations but have no decision-making authority.

[PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 293 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 422, §1 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 758 (RPR). PL 2009, c. 240, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. C, §1 (RPR).

§403-A. Public proceedings through remote access during declaration of state of emergency due to COVID-19

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 617, Pt. G, §1 (NEW). MRSA T. 1 §403-A, sub-§3 (RP).

§403-B. Remote participation in public proceedings

1. Remote participation. This section governs remote methods of participation in public proceedings of certain public bodies. For the purposes of this section, "remote methods" means telephonic or video technology allowing simultaneous reception of information and may include other means when such means are necessary to provide reasonable accommodation to a person with a disability. Public proceedings may not be conducted by text-only means such as e-mail, text messages or chat functions.

[PL 2021, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

2. Requirements. A public body subject to this subchapter may allow members of the body and the public to participate in a public proceeding using remote methods only under the following conditions:

A. After notice and hearing the body has adopted a written policy governing the conditions upon which members of the body and the public may participate in a public proceeding of that body by remote methods.

(1) If a public body has not adopted a policy authorizing remote methods of participation under this section and if the chair of the body determines that an emergency or urgent issue exists that prevents the public body from meeting in person to adopt a policy, the chair may call a meeting of the body in which the members may participate by remote methods. Notice of the meeting must include information about how the public can participate in the meeting and the proposed policy or instructions on how to obtain a copy of the proposed policy in advance of the meeting. Once the meeting is convened, the members shall vote on whether to support the chair's determination that an emergency or urgent issue exists that prevents the public body from meeting in person.

(2) If 2/3 of the members vote in support of the chair's determination under subparagraph (1), after an opportunity for hearing, the members may vote on whether to adopt a policy authorizing remote methods of participation in public proceedings of the body under this section; [PL 2021, c. 611, §1 (AMD).]

B. [PL 2021, c. 666, §1 (RP).]

C. The policy adopted pursuant to paragraph A must provide members of the public a meaningful opportunity to attend by remote methods when members of the body participate by remote methods, and reasonable accommodations may be provided when necessary to provide access to individuals with disabilities; [PL 2021, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

D. If the body allows or is required to provide an opportunity for public input during the proceeding, an effective means of communication between the members of the body and the public must be provided; [PL 2021, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

E. Notice of the proceeding must be provided in accordance with section 406. When the public may attend by remote methods pursuant to paragraphs C and D, the notice must include the means by which members of the public may access the proceeding using remote methods. The notice must also identify a location for members of the public to attend in person. The body may limit public attendance at a proceeding solely to remote methods if there is an emergency or urgent situation that requires the body to meet only by remote methods; [PL 2021, c. 666, §2 (AMD).]

F. A member of the body who participates in a public proceeding by remote methods is present for purposes of a quorum and voting; [PL 2021, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

G. All votes taken during a public proceeding using remote methods must be taken by roll call vote that can be seen and heard if using video technology, and heard if using only audio technology, by the other members of the public body and the public; [PL 2023, c. 185, §1 (AMD).]

H. The public body must make all documents and other materials considered by the public body available, electronically or otherwise, to the public who attend by remote methods to the same extent customarily available to members of the public who attend the proceedings of the public body in person, as long as additional costs are not incurred by the public body. The public body must make the proposed policy regarding remote participation available in advance of the meeting if meeting remotely under paragraph A, subparagraphs (1) and (2); and [PL 2023, c. 185, §2 (AMD).]

I. When the public may attend a public proceeding by remote methods, the public body must allow members of the public to record the proceeding remotely using the same electronic platform that is used to conduct the proceeding remotely as long as the electronic platform allows participants other than the host to record the proceeding remotely, additional costs are not incurred by the public body and the recording of the proceeding does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the proceeding. [PL 2023, c. 185, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 158, §1 (AMD); PL 2023, c. 185, §§1-3 (AMD).]

2-A. Blanket remote participation policies; exceptions. The applicability of a policy adopted by a public body under subsection 2 to other public bodies within the jurisdiction of the public body is governed by this subsection.

A. Except as provided in paragraphs B and C, a remote participation policy adopted by a public body pursuant to subsection 2 applies to a board, committee or subcommittee that is within the jurisdiction of the public body, unless the board, committee or subcommittee adopts its own policy under subsection 2. [PL 2023, c. 158, §2 (NEW).]

B. A remote participation policy adopted pursuant to subsection 2 by the county commissioners of the county, the municipal officers of a municipality or the officers of any regional or other political subdivision applies to all public bodies subject to this subchapter that are within the jurisdiction of the county, municipality or regional or other political subdivision, respectively, unless the county commissioners, municipal officers or other officers of the regional or other political subdivision specifically authorize a public body under their jurisdiction to adopt its own remote participation policy. [PL 2023, c. 158, §2 (NEW).]

C. Nothing in this subsection limits the right of a school board to choose to adopt or to choose not to adopt a remote participation policy under subsection 2. [PL 2023, c. 158, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 158, §2 (NEW).]

3. Remote participation not permitted. This section does not authorize town meetings held pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2524 or regional school unit budget meetings held pursuant to Title 20-A, section 1482-A to be conducted using remote methods.

[PL 2021, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

4. Application. This section does not apply to:

A. The Legislature; or [PL 2021, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

B. A public body to which specific statutory provisions for remote participation apply. [PL 2021, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 290, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 290, §1 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 611, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 666, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 158, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 185, §§1-3 (AMD).

§404. Recorded or live broadcasts authorized

In order to facilitate the public policy so declared by the Legislature of opening the public's business to public scrutiny, all persons shall be entitled to attend public proceedings and to make written, taped or filmed records of the proceedings, or to live broadcast the same, provided the writing, taping, filming or broadcasting does not interfere with the orderly conduct of proceedings. The body or agency holding the public proceedings may make reasonable rules and regulations governing these activities, so long as these rules or regulations do not defeat the purpose of this subchapter. [PL 1975, c. 758 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 422, §2 (RPR). PL 1975, c. 483, §4 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 758 (RPR).

§404-A. Decisions**(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1973, c. 433, §2 (NEW). PL 1973, c. 704, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 758 (RP).

§405. Executive sessions

Those bodies or agencies falling within this subchapter may hold executive sessions subject to the following conditions. [PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW).]

1. Not to defeat purposes of subchapter. An executive session may not be used to defeat the purposes of this subchapter as stated in section 401.

[PL 2009, c. 240, §2 (AMD).]

2. Final approval of certain items prohibited. An ordinance, order, rule, resolution, regulation, contract, appointment or other official action may not be finally approved at an executive session.

[PL 2009, c. 240, §2 (AMD).]

3. Procedure for calling of executive session. An executive session may be called only by a public, recorded vote of 3/5 of the members, present and voting, of such bodies or agencies.

[PL 2009, c. 240, §2 (AMD).]

4. Motion contents. A motion to go into executive session must indicate the precise nature of the business of the executive session and include a citation of one or more sources of statutory or other authority that permits an executive session for that business. Failure to state all authorities justifying the executive session does not constitute a violation of this subchapter if one or more of the authorities are accurately cited in the motion. An inaccurate citation of authority for an executive session does not violate this subchapter if valid authority that permits the executive session exists and the failure to cite the valid authority was inadvertent.

[PL 2003, c. 709, §1 (AMD).]

5. Matters not contained in motion prohibited. Matters other than those identified in the motion to go into executive session may not be considered in that particular executive session.

[PL 2009, c. 240, §2 (AMD).]

6. Permitted deliberation. Deliberations on only the following matters may be conducted during an executive session:

A. Discussion or consideration of the employment, appointment, assignment, duties, promotion, demotion, compensation, evaluation, disciplining, resignation or dismissal of an individual or group of public officials, appointees or employees of the body or agency or the investigation or hearing of charges or complaints against a person or persons subject to the following conditions:

- (1) An executive session may be held only if public discussion could be reasonably expected to cause damage to the individual's reputation or the individual's right to privacy would be violated;
- (2) Any person charged or investigated must be permitted to be present at an executive session if that person so desires;
- (3) Any person charged or investigated may request in writing that the investigation or hearing of charges or complaints against that person be conducted in open session. A request, if made to the agency, must be honored; and
- (4) Any person bringing charges, complaints or allegations of misconduct against the individual under discussion must be permitted to be present.

This paragraph does not apply to discussion of a budget or budget proposal; [PL 2009, c. 240, §2 (AMD).]

B. Discussion or consideration by a school board of suspension or expulsion of a public school student or a student at a private school, the cost of whose education is paid from public funds, as long as:

- (1) The student and legal counsel and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardians are permitted to be present at an executive session if the student, parents or guardians so desire; [PL 2009, c. 240, §2 (AMD).]

C. Discussion or consideration of the condition, acquisition or the use of real or personal property permanently attached to real property or interests therein or disposition of publicly held property or economic development only if premature disclosures of the information would prejudice the competitive or bargaining position of the body or agency; [PL 1987, c. 477, §3 (AMD).]

D. Discussion of labor contracts and proposals and meetings between a public agency and its negotiators. The parties must be named before the body or agency may go into executive session. Negotiations between the representatives of a public employer and public employees may be open to the public if both parties agree to conduct negotiations in open sessions; [PL 1999, c. 144, §1 (RPR).]

E. Consultations between a body or agency and its attorney concerning the legal rights and duties of the body or agency, pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers and matters where the duties of the public body's or agency's counsel to the attorney's client pursuant to the code of professional responsibility clearly conflict with this subchapter or where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the State, municipality or other public agency or person at a substantial disadvantage; [PL 2009, c. 240, §2 (AMD).]

F. Discussions of information contained in records made, maintained or received by a body or agency when access by the general public to those records is prohibited by statute; [PL 1999, c. 180, §1 (AMD).]

G. Discussion or approval of the content of examinations administered by a body or agency for licensing, permitting or employment purposes; consultation between a body or agency and any entity that provides examination services to that body or agency regarding the content of an examination; and review of examinations with the person examined; and [PL 1999, c. 180, §2 (AMD).]

H. Consultations between municipal officers and a code enforcement officer representing the municipality pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4452, subsection 1, paragraph C in the prosecution of an enforcement matter pending in District Court when the consultation relates to that pending enforcement matter. [PL 1999, c. 180, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 240, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 758 (RPR). PL 1979, c. 541, §A3 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 477, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 769, §A1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 40, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 144, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 180, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 709, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 240, §2 (AMD).

§405-A. Recorded or live broadcasts authorized**(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1975, c. 483, §5 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 758 (RP).

§405-B. Appeals**(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1975, c. 483, §5 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 758 (RP).

§405-C. Appeals from actions**(REPEALED)****SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1975, c. 483, §5 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 758 (RP).

§406. Public notice

Public notice shall be given for all public proceedings as defined in section 402, if these proceedings are a meeting of a body or agency consisting of 3 or more persons. This notice shall be given in ample time to allow public attendance and shall be disseminated in a manner reasonably calculated to notify the general public in the jurisdiction served by the body or agency concerned. In the event of an emergency meeting, local representatives of the media shall be notified of the meeting, whenever practical, the notification to include time and location, by the same or faster means used to notify the members of the agency conducting the public proceeding. [PL 1987, c. 477, §4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 483, §6 (AMD). PL 1975, c. 758 (RPR). PL 1987, c. 477, §4 (AMD).

§407. Decisions

1. Conditional approval or denial. Every agency shall make a written record of every decision involving the conditional approval or denial of an application, license, certificate or any other type of permit. The agency shall set forth in the record the reason or reasons for its decision and make finding of the fact, in writing, sufficient to appraise the applicant and any interested member of the public of the basis for the decision. A written record or a copy thereof shall be kept by the agency and made available to any interested member of the public who may wish to review it. [PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW).]

2. Dismissal or refusal to renew contract. Every agency shall make a written record of every decision involving the dismissal or the refusal to renew the contract of any public official, employee or appointee. The agency shall, except in case of probationary employees, set forth in the record the reason or reasons for its decision and make findings of fact, in writing, sufficient to appraise the individual concerned and any interested member of the public of the basis for the decision. A written record or a copy thereof must be kept by the agency and made available to any interested member of the public who may wish to review it. [PL 2009, c. 240, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 240, §3 (AMD).

§408. Public records available for public inspection and copying**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 709, §2 (RPR). PL 2007, c. 501, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 240, §4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 662, §4 (RP).

§408-A. Public records available for inspection and copying

Except as otherwise provided by statute, a person has the right to inspect and copy any public record in accordance with this section within a reasonable time of making the request to inspect or copy the public record. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

1. Inspect. A person may inspect any public record during reasonable office hours. An agency or official may not charge a fee for inspection unless the public record cannot be inspected without being converted or compiled, in which case the agency or official may charge a fee as provided in subsection 8.

[PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

2. Copy. A person may copy a public record in the office of the agency or official having custody of the public record during reasonable office hours or may request that the agency or official having custody of the record provide a copy. The agency or official may charge a fee for copies as provided in subsection 8.

A. A request need not be made in person or in writing. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

B. The agency or official shall mail the copy upon request. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]
[PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

3. Acknowledgment; clarification; time estimate; cost estimate. The agency or official having custody or control of a public record shall acknowledge receipt of a request made according to this section within 5 working days of receiving the request and may request clarification concerning which public record or public records are being requested. Within a reasonable time of receiving the request, the agency or official shall provide a good faith, nonbinding estimate of the time frame within which the agency or official will comply with the request and a cost estimate as provided in subsection 9. The agency or official shall make a good faith effort to fully respond to the request within the estimated time frame. For purposes of this subsection, the date a request is received is the date a sufficient description of the public record is received by the agency or official at the office responsible for maintaining the public record. An agency or official that receives a request for a public record that is maintained by that agency but is not maintained by the office that received the request shall forward the request to the office of the agency or official that maintains the record, without willful delay, and shall notify the requester that the request has been forwarded and that the office to which the request has been forwarded will acknowledge receipt within 5 working days of receiving the request.

[PL 2023, c. 155, §1 (AMD).]

4. Refusals; denials. If a body or an agency or official having custody or control of any public record refuses permission to inspect or copy or abstract a public record, the body or agency or official shall provide, within 5 working days of the receipt of the request for inspection or copying, written notice of the denial, stating the reason for the denial or the expectation that the request will be denied in full or in part following a review. A request for inspection or copying may be denied, in whole or in part, on the basis that the request is unduly burdensome or oppressive if the procedures established in subsection 4-A are followed. Failure to comply with this subsection is considered failure to allow inspection or copying and is subject to appeal as provided in section 409.

[PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §1 (RPR).]

4-A. Action for protection. A body, an agency or an official may seek protection from a request for inspection or copying that is unduly burdensome or oppressive by filing an action for an order of protection in the Superior Court for the county where the request for records was made within 30 days of receipt of the request.

A. The following information must be included in the complaint if available or provided to the parties and filed with the court no more than 14 days from the filing of the complaint or such other period as the court may order:

- (1) The terms of the request and any modifications agreed to by the requesting party;
- (2) A statement of the facts that demonstrate the burdensome or oppressive nature of the request, with a good faith estimate of the time required to search for, retrieve, redact if necessary and compile the records responsive to the request and the resulting costs calculated in accordance with subsection 8;
- (3) A description of the efforts made by the body, agency or official to inform the requesting party of the good faith estimate of costs and to discuss possible modifications of the request that would reduce the burden of production; and
- (4) Proof that the body, agency or official has submitted a notice of intent to file an action under this subsection to the party requesting the records, dated at least 10 days prior to filing the complaint for an order of protection under this subsection. [PL 2015, c. 248, §2 (NEW).]

B. Any appeal that may be filed by the requesting party under section 409 may be consolidated with an action under this subsection. [PL 2015, c. 248, §2 (NEW).]

C. An action for protection may be advanced on the docket and receive priority over other cases when the court determines that the interests of justice so require upon the request of any party. [PL 2015, c. 248, §2 (NEW).]

D. If the court finds that the body, agency or official has demonstrated good cause to limit or deny the request, the court shall enter an order making such findings and establishing the terms upon which production, if any, must be made. If the court finds that the body, agency or official has not demonstrated good cause to limit or deny the request, the court shall establish a date by which the records must be provided to the requesting party. [PL 2015, c. 248, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

5. Schedule. Inspection, conversion pursuant to subsection 7 and copying of a public record subject to a request under this section may be scheduled to occur at a time that will not delay or inconvenience the regular activities of the agency or official having custody or control of the public record requested. If the agency or official does not have regular office hours, the name and telephone number of a contact person authorized to provide access to the agency's or official's records must be posted in a conspicuous public place and at the office of the agency or official, if an office exists. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

6. No requirement to create new record. An agency or official is not required to create a record that does not exist. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

7. Electronically stored public records. An agency or official having custody or control of a public record subject to a request under this section shall provide access to an electronically stored public record either as a printed document of the public record or in the medium in which the record is stored, at the requester's option, except that the agency or official is not required to provide access to an electronically stored public record as a computer file if the agency or official does not have the

ability to separate or prevent the disclosure of confidential information contained in or associated with that file.

A. If in order to provide access to an electronically stored public record the agency or official converts the record into a form susceptible of visual or aural comprehension or into a usable format for inspection or copying, the agency or official may charge a fee to cover the cost of conversion as provided in subsection 8. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

B. This subsection does not require an agency or official to provide a requester with access to a computer terminal. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

8. Payment of costs. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law or court order, an agency or official having custody of a public record may charge fees for public records as follows.

A. The agency or official may charge a reasonable fee to cover the cost of copying. A reasonable fee to cover the cost of copying is no more than 10¢ per page for a standard 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches black and white copy of a record. A per-page copy fee may not be charged for records provided electronically. [PL 2021, c. 313, §1 (AMD).]

B. The agency or official may charge a fee to cover the actual cost of searching for, retrieving and compiling the requested public record in accordance with this paragraph. Compiling the public record includes reviewing and redacting confidential information.

(1) The agency or official may not charge a fee for the first 2 hours of staff time per request.

(2) After the first 2 hours of staff time, the agency or official may charge a fee of not more than \$25 per hour. [PL 2021, c. 375, §1 (AMD).]

C. The agency or official may charge for the actual cost to convert a public record into a form susceptible of visual or aural comprehension or into a usable format and for the actual cost of a device used to store the public record if the storage device will be given to the requester by the agency or official. [PL 2023, c. 155, §2 (AMD).]

D. An agency or official may not charge for inspection unless the public record cannot be inspected without being compiled or converted, in which case paragraph B or C applies. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

E. The agency or official may charge for the actual mailing costs to mail a copy of a record. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

F. An agency or official may require payment of all costs before the public record is provided to the requester. [PL 2017, c. 158, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2023, c. 155, §2 (AMD).]

9. Estimate. The agency or official having custody or control of a public record subject to a request under this section shall provide to the requester an estimate of the time frame within which the agency or official will comply with the request and of the total cost as provided by subsection 8. If the estimate of the total cost is greater than \$50, the agency or official shall inform the requester before proceeding. If the estimate of the total cost is greater than \$100, subsection 10 applies. [PL 2023, c. 155, §3 (AMD).]

10. Payment in advance. The agency or official having custody or control of a public record subject to a request under this section may require a requester to pay all or a portion of the estimated costs to complete the request prior to the search, retrieval, compiling, conversion and copying of the public record if:

A. The estimated total cost exceeds \$100; or [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

B. The requester has previously failed to pay a properly assessed fee under this chapter in a timely manner. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]
[PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

11. Waivers. The agency or official having custody or control of a public record subject to a request under this section may waive part or all of the total fee charged pursuant to subsection 8 if:

A. The requester is indigent; or [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

B. The agency or official considers release of the public record requested to be in the public interest because doing so is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. [PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]
[PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW).]

12. Retention of fees or costs. An agency may retain any fees or costs charged under this section. [PL 2021, c. 375, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 662, §5 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 350, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 248, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 249, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 317, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 158, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. A, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 313, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 375, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 155, §§1-3 (AMD).

§409. Appeals

1. Records. Any person aggrieved by a refusal or denial to inspect or copy a record or the failure to allow the inspection or copying of a record under section 408-A may appeal the refusal, denial or failure within 30 calendar days of the receipt of the written notice of refusal, denial or failure to the Superior Court within the State for the county where the person resides or the agency has its principal office. The agency or official shall file a statement of position explaining the basis for denial within 14 calendar days of service of the appeal. If a court, after a review, with taking of testimony and other evidence as determined necessary, determines such refusal, denial or failure was not for just and proper cause, the court shall enter an order for disclosure. Appeals may be advanced on the docket and receive priority over other cases when the court determines that the interests of justice so require. [PL 2015, c. 249, §2 (AMD).]

2. Actions. If any body or agency approves any ordinances, orders, rules, resolutions, regulations, contracts, appointments or other official action in an executive session, this action is illegal and the officials responsible are subject to the penalties hereinafter provided. Upon learning of any such action, any person may appeal to any Superior Court in the State. If a court, after a trial de novo, determines this action was taken illegally in an executive session, it shall enter an order providing for the action to be null and void. Appeals may be advanced on the docket and receive priority over other cases when the court determines that the interests of justice so require. [PL 2011, c. 559, Pt. A, §2 (AMD).]

3. Proceedings not exclusive. The proceedings authorized by this section are not exclusive of any other civil remedy provided by law. [PL 2009, c. 240, §6 (AMD).]

4. Attorney's fees. In an appeal under subsection 1 or 2, the court may award reasonable attorney's fees and litigation expenses to the substantially prevailing plaintiff who appealed the refusal under subsection 1 or the illegal action under subsection 2 if the court determines that the refusal or illegal action was committed in bad faith. Attorney's fees and litigation costs may not be awarded to or against a federally recognized Indian tribe.

This subsection applies to appeals under subsection 1 or 2 filed on or after January 1, 2010.

[PL 2009, c. 423, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 477, §5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. C, §1 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 240, §§5, 6 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 423, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 559, Pt. A, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 662, §6 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 350, §3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 249, §2 (AMD).

§410. Violations

1. Civil violation. An officer or employee of a state government agency or local government entity who willfully violates this subchapter commits a civil violation.

[PL 2019, c. 247, §1 (NEW).]

2. Penalties. A state government agency or local government entity whose officer or employee commits a civil violation described in subsection 1 is subject to:

A. A fine of not more than \$500 for a civil violation described in subsection 1; [PL 2019, c. 247, §1 (NEW).]

B. A fine of not more than \$1,000 for a civil violation described in subsection 1 that was committed not more than 4 years after a previous adjudication of a civil violation described in subsection 1 by an officer or employee of the same state government agency or local government entity; or [PL 2019, c. 247, §1 (NEW).]

C. A fine of not more than \$2,000 for a civil violation described in subsection 1 that was committed not more than 4 years after 2 or more previous adjudications of a civil violation described in subsection 1 by an officer or employee of the same state government agency or local government entity. [PL 2019, c. 247, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 247, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 758 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 477, §6 (RPR). PL 2019, c. 247, §1 (RPR).

§411. Right To Know Advisory Committee

1. Advisory committee established. The Right To Know Advisory Committee, referred to in this chapter as "the advisory committee," is established to serve as a resource for ensuring compliance with this chapter and upholding the integrity of the purposes underlying this chapter as it applies to all public entities in the conduct of the public's business.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

2. Membership. The advisory committee consists of the following members:

A. One Senator who is a member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters, appointed by the President of the Senate; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

B. One member of the House of Representatives who is a member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters, appointed by the Speaker of the House; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

C. One representative of municipal interests, appointed by the Governor; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

D. One representative of county or regional interests, appointed by the President of the Senate; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

E. One representative of school interests, appointed by the Governor; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

F. One representative of law enforcement interests, appointed by the President of the Senate; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

G. One representative of the interests of State Government, appointed by the Governor; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

H. One representative of a statewide coalition of advocates of freedom of access, appointed by the Speaker of the House; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

I. One representative of newspaper and other press interests, appointed by the President of the Senate; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

J. One representative of newspaper publishers, appointed by the Speaker of the House; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

K. Two representatives of broadcasting interests, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

L. Two representatives of the public, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House; [PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

M. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee; [PL 2021, c. 313, §2 (AMD).]

N. One member with broad experience in and understanding of issues and costs in multiple areas of information technology, including practical applications concerning creation, storage, retrieval and accessibility of electronic records; use of communication technologies to support meetings, including teleconferencing and Internet-based conferencing; databases for records management and reporting; and information technology system development and support, appointed by the Governor; and [PL 2021, c. 313, §3 (AMD).]

O. One representative having legal or professional expertise in the field of data and personal privacy, appointed by the Governor. [PL 2021, c. 313, §4 (NEW).]

The advisory committee shall invite the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to designate a member of the judicial branch to serve as a member of the committee.

[PL 2021, c. 313, §§2-4 (AMD).]

3. Terms of appointment. The terms of appointment are as follows.

A. Except as provided in paragraph B, members are appointed for terms of 3 years. [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

B. Members who are Legislators are appointed for the duration of the legislative terms of office in which they were appointed. [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

C. Members may serve beyond their designated terms until their successors are appointed. [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

4. First meeting; chair. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall call the first meeting of the advisory committee as soon as funding permits. At the first meeting, the advisory committee shall select a chair from among its members and may select a new chair annually.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

5. Meetings. The advisory committee may meet as often as necessary but not fewer than 4 times a year. A meeting may be called by the chair or by any 4 members.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

6. Duties and powers. The advisory committee:

- A. Shall provide guidance in ensuring access to public records and proceedings and help to establish an effective process to address general compliance issues and respond to requests for interpretation and clarification of the laws; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Shall serve as the central source and coordinator of information about the freedom of access laws and the people's right to know. The advisory committee shall provide the basic information about the requirements of the law and the best practices for agencies and public officials. The advisory committee shall also provide general information about the freedom of access laws for a wider and deeper understanding of citizens' rights and their role in open government. The advisory committee shall coordinate the education efforts by providing information about the freedom of access laws and whom to contact for specific inquiries; [RR 2005, c. 2, §1 (COR).]
- C. Shall serve as a resource to support the establishment and maintenance of a central publicly accessible website that provides the text of the freedom of access laws and provides specific guidance on how a member of the public can use the law to be a better informed and active participant in open government. The website must include the contact information for agencies, as well as whom to contact with complaints and concerns. The website must also include, or contain a link to, a list of statutory exceptions to the public records laws; [RR 2005, c. 2, §1 (COR).]
- D. Shall serve as a resource to support training and education about the freedom of access laws. Although each agency is responsible for training for the specific records and meetings pertaining to that agency's mission, the advisory committee shall provide core resources for the training, share best practices experiences and support the establishment and maintenance of online training as well as written question-and-answer summaries about specific topics. The advisory committee shall recommend a process for collecting the training completion records required under section 412, subsection 3 and for making that information publicly available; [PL 2007, c. 576, §1 (AMD).]
- E. Shall serve as a resource for the review committee under subchapter 1-A in examining public records exceptions in both existing laws and in proposed legislation; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]
- F. Shall examine inconsistencies in statutory language and may recommend standardized language in the statutes to clearly delineate what information is not public and the circumstances under which that information may appropriately be released; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]
- G. May make recommendations for changes in the statutes to improve the laws and may make recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and local and regional governmental entities with regard to best practices in providing the public access to records and proceedings and to maintain the integrity of the freedom of access laws and their underlying principles. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters may report out legislation based on the advisory committee's recommendations; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]
- H. Shall serve as an adviser to the Legislature when legislation affecting public access is considered; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]
- I. May conduct public hearings, conferences, workshops and other meetings to obtain information about, discuss, publicize the needs of and consider solutions to problems concerning access to public proceedings and records; [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]
- J. Shall review the collection, maintenance and use of records by agencies and officials to ensure that confidential records and information are protected and public records remain accessible to the public; and [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]
- K. May undertake other activities consistent with its listed responsibilities. [PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 576, §1 (AMD).]

7. Outside funding for advisory committee activities. The advisory committee may seek outside funds to fund the cost of public hearings, conferences, workshops, other meetings, other activities of the advisory committee and educational and training materials. Contributions to support the work of the advisory committee may not be accepted from any party having a pecuniary or other vested interest in the outcome of the matters being studied. Any person, other than a state agency, desiring to make a financial or in-kind contribution shall certify to the Legislative Council that it has no pecuniary or other vested interest in the outcome of the advisory committee's activities. Such a certification must be made in the manner prescribed by the Legislative Council. All contributions are subject to approval by the Legislative Council. All funds accepted must be forwarded to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council along with an accounting record that includes the amount of funds, the date the funds were received, from whom the funds were received and the purpose of and any limitation on the use of those funds. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall administer any funds received by the advisory committee.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

8. Compensation. Legislative members of the advisory committee are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of the advisory committee. Public members not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses and, upon a demonstration of financial hardship, a per diem equal to the legislative per diem for their attendance at authorized meetings of the advisory committee.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

9. Staffing. The Legislative Council shall provide staff support for the operation of the advisory committee, except that the Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session. In addition, the advisory committee may contract for administrative, professional and clerical services if funding permits.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

10. Report. By January 15, 2007 and at least annually thereafter, the advisory committee shall report to the Governor, the Legislative Council, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court about the state of the freedom of access laws and the public's access to public proceedings and records.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2005, c. 2, §1 (COR). PL 2005, c. 631, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 576, §1 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. A, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 313, §§2-4 (AMD).

§412. Public records and proceedings training for certain officials and public access officers

1. Training required. A public access officer and an official subject to this section shall complete a course of training on the requirements of this chapter relating to public records and proceedings. The official or public access officer shall complete the training not later than the 120th day after the date the official assumes the person's duties as an official or the person is designated as a public access officer pursuant to section 413, subsection 1.

[PL 2021, c. 313, §5 (AMD).]

2. Training course; minimum requirements. The training course under subsection 1 must be designed to be completed by an official or a public access officer in less than 2 hours. At a minimum, the training must include instruction in:

A. The general legal requirements of this chapter regarding public records and public proceedings;
[PL 2007, c. 349, §1 (NEW).]

B. Procedures and requirements regarding complying with a request for a public record under this chapter; and [PL 2007, c. 349, §1 (NEW).]

C. Penalties and other consequences for failure to comply with this chapter. [PL 2007, c. 349, §1 (NEW).]

An official or a public access officer meets the training requirements of this section by conducting a thorough review of all the information made available by the State on a publicly accessible website pursuant to section 411, subsection 6, paragraph C regarding specific guidance on how a member of the public can use the law to be a better informed and active participant in open government. To meet the requirements of this subsection, any other training course must include all of this information and may include additional information.

[PL 2019, c. 300, §1 (AMD).]

3. Certification of completion. Upon completion of the training course required under subsection 1, the official or public access officer shall make a written or an electronic record attesting to the fact that the training has been completed. The record must identify the training completed and the date of completion. The official shall keep the record or file it with the public entity to which the official was elected or appointed. A public access officer shall file the record with the agency or official that designated the public access officer.

[PL 2019, c. 300, §1 (AMD).]

4. Application. This section applies to a public access officer and the following officials:

A. The Governor; [PL 2007, c. 349, §1 (NEW).]

B. The Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State and State Auditor; [PL 2007, c. 349, §1 (NEW).]

C. Members of the Legislature elected after November 1, 2008; [PL 2007, c. 576, §2 (AMD).]

D. [PL 2007, c. 576, §2 (RP).]

E. Commissioners, treasurers, district attorneys, sheriffs, registers of deeds, registers of probate and budget committee members of county governments; [PL 2007, c. 576, §2 (NEW).]

F. Municipal officers; municipal clerks, treasurers, managers or administrators, assessors and code enforcement officers and deputies for those positions; and planning board members and budget committee members of municipal governments; [PL 2021, c. 313, §6 (AMD).]

G. Superintendents, assistant superintendents and school board members of school administrative units; and [PL 2021, c. 313, §7 (AMD).]

H. Officials of a regional or other political subdivision who, as part of the duties of their offices, exercise executive or legislative powers. For the purposes of this paragraph, "regional or other political subdivision" means an administrative entity or instrumentality created pursuant to Title 30-A, chapter 115 or chapter 119 or a quasi-municipal corporation or special purpose district, including, but not limited to, a water district, sanitary district, hospital district, school district of any type, transit district as defined in Title 30-A, section 3501, subsection 1 or regional transportation corporation as defined in Title 30-A, section 3501, subsection 2. [PL 2007, c. 576, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 313, §§6, 7 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 349, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 576, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 662, §7 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 300, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 313, §§5-7 (AMD).

§413. Public access officer

1. Designation; responsibility. Each agency, county, municipality, school administrative unit and regional or other political subdivision shall designate an existing employee as its public access officer to serve as the contact person for that agency, county, municipality, school administrative unit or regional or other political subdivision with regard to requests for public records under this subchapter. The public access officer is responsible for ensuring that each public record request is acknowledged within 5 working days of the receipt of the request by the office responsible for maintaining the public record requested and that a good faith estimate of when the response to the request will be complete is provided according to section 408-A. The public access officer shall serve as a resource within the agency, county, municipality, school administrative unit and regional or other political subdivision concerning freedom of access questions and compliance.

[PL 2015, c. 317, §2 (AMD).]

2. Acknowledgment and response required. An agency, county, municipality, school administrative unit and regional or other political subdivision that receives a request to inspect or copy a public record shall acknowledge and respond to the request regardless of whether the request was delivered to or directed to the public access officer.

[PL 2011, c. 662, §8 (NEW).]

3. No delay based on unavailability. The unavailability of a public access officer may not delay a response to a request.

[PL 2011, c. 662, §8 (NEW).]

4. Training. A public access officer shall complete a course of training on the requirements of this chapter relating to public records and proceedings as described in section 412.

[PL 2011, c. 662, §8 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 662, §8 (NEW). PL 2015, c. 317, §2 (AMD).

§414. Public records; information technology

An agency shall consider, in the purchase of and contracting for computer software and other information technology resources, the extent to which the software or technology will: [PL 2011, c. 662, §8 (NEW).]

1. Maximize public access. Maximize public access to public records; and

[PL 2011, c. 662, §8 (NEW).]

2. Maximize exportability; protect confidential information. Maximize the exportability of public records while protecting confidential information that may be part of public records.

[PL 2011, c. 662, §8 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 662, §8 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 1-A

PUBLIC RECORDS EXCEPTIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY

§431. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

1. Public records exception. "Public records exception" or "exception" means a provision in a statute or a proposed statute that declares a record or a category of records to be confidential or otherwise not a public record for purposes of subchapter 1.

[PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

2. Review committee. "Review committee" means the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters.

[PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

3. Advisory committee. "Advisory committee" means the Right To Know Advisory Committee established in Title 5, section 12004-J, subsection 14 and described in section 411.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 631, §2 (AMD).

§432. Exceptions to public records; review

1. Recommendations. During the second regular session of each Legislature, the review committee may report out legislation containing its recommendations concerning the repeal, modification and continuation of public records exceptions and any recommendations concerning the exception review process and the accessibility of public records. Before reporting out legislation, the review committee shall notify the appropriate committees of jurisdiction concerning public hearings and work sessions and shall allow members of the appropriate committees of jurisdiction to participate in work sessions.

[PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. D, §1 (AMD).]

2. Process of evaluation. According to the schedule in section 433, the advisory committee shall evaluate each public records exception that is scheduled for review that biennium. This section does not prohibit the evaluation of a public record exception by either the advisory committee or the review committee at a time other than that listed in section 433. The following criteria apply in determining whether each exception scheduled for review should be repealed, modified or remain unchanged:

A. Whether a record protected by the exception still needs to be collected and maintained; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

B. The value to the agency or official or to the public in maintaining a record protected by the exception; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

C. Whether federal law requires a record to be confidential; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

D. Whether the exception protects an individual's privacy interest and, if so, whether that interest substantially outweighs the public interest in the disclosure of records; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

E. Whether public disclosure puts a business at a competitive disadvantage and, if so, whether that business's interest substantially outweighs the public interest in the disclosure of records; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

F. Whether public disclosure compromises the position of a public body in negotiations and, if so, whether that public body's interest substantially outweighs the public interest in the disclosure of records; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

G. Whether public disclosure jeopardizes the safety of a member of the public or the public in general and, if so, whether that safety interest substantially outweighs the public interest in the disclosure of records; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

G-1. Whether public access to the record ensures or would ensure that members of the public are able to make informed health and safety decisions; [PL 2021, c. 313, §8 (NEW).]

H. Whether the exception is as narrowly tailored as possible; and [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

I. Any other criteria that assist the review committee in determining the value of the exception as compared to the public's interest in the record protected by the exception. [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 313, §8 (AMD).]

2-A. Accountability review of agency or official. In evaluating each public records exception, the advisory committee shall, in addition to applying the criteria of subsection 2, determine whether there is a publicly accountable entity that has authority to review the agency or official that collects, maintains or uses the record subject to the exception in order to ensure that information collection, maintenance and use are consistent with the purpose of the exception and that public access to public records is not hindered.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §3 (NEW).]

2-B. Recommendations to review committee. The advisory committee shall report its recommendations under this section to the review committee no later than the convening of the second regular session of each Legislature.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §3 (NEW).]

2-C. Accessibility of public records. The advisory committee may include in its evaluation of public records statutes the consideration of any factors that affect the accessibility of public records, including but not limited to fees, request procedures and timeliness of responses.

[PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

3. Assistance from committees of jurisdiction. The advisory committee may seek assistance in evaluating public records exceptions from the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over the subject matter related to the exceptions being reviewed. The advisory committee may hold public hearings after notice to the appropriate committees of jurisdiction.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 631, §3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. D, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 313, §8 (AMD).

§433. Schedule for review of exceptions to public records

1. Scheduling guidelines.

[PL 2005, c. 631, §4 (RP).]

2. Scheduling guidelines.

[PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. D, §1 (RP).]

2-A. Scheduling guidelines. The advisory committee shall use the following list as a guideline for scheduling reviews of public records exceptions and reporting its recommendations to the review committee:

A. Exceptions enacted after 2004 and before 2013 are scheduled to be reviewed by the review committee no later than 2017; [PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Exceptions codified in the following Titles are scheduled to be reviewed by the review committee no later than 2019:

- (1) Title 1;
- (2) Title 2;
- (3) Title 3;
- (4) Title 4;

- (5) Title 5;
- (6) Title 6;
- (7) Title 7; and
- (8) Title 7-A; [PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Exceptions codified in the following Titles are scheduled to be reviewed by the review committee no later than 2021:

- (1) Title 8;
- (2) Title 9-A;
- (3) Title 9-B;
- (4) Title 10;
- (5) Title 11; and
- (6) Title 12; [PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

D. Exceptions codified in the following Titles are scheduled to be reviewed by the review committee no later than 2023:

- (1) Title 13;
- (2) Title 13-B;
- (3) Title 13-C;
- (4) Title 14;
- (5) Title 15;
- (6) Title 16;
- (7) Title 17;
- (8) Title 17-A;
- (9) Title 18-C;
- (10) Title 18-B;
- (11) Title 19-A;
- (12) Title 20-A; and
- (13) Title 21-A; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §1 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

E. Exceptions codified in the following Titles are scheduled to be reviewed by the review committee no later than 2025:

- (1) Title 22;
- (2) Title 22-A;
- (3) Title 23;
- (4) Title 24; and
- (5) Title 24-A; [PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

F. Exceptions codified in the following Titles are scheduled to be reviewed by the review committee no later than 2027:

- (1) Title 25;
- (2) Title 26;

- (3) Title 27;
- (4) Title 28-A;
- (5) Title 29-A;
- (6) Title 30;
- (7) Title 30-A;
- (8) Title 31; and
- (9) Title 32; and [PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

G. Exceptions codified in the following Titles are scheduled to be reviewed by the review committee no later than 2029:

- (1) Title 33;
- (2) Title 34-A;
- (3) Title 34-B;
- (4) Title 35-A;
- (5) Title 36;
- (6) Title 37-B;
- (7) Title 38; and
- (8) Title 39-A. [PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §1 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Scheduling changes. The advisory committee may make adjustments to the scheduling guidelines provided in subsection 2-A as it determines appropriate and shall notify the review committee of such adjustments.

[PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. D, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 631, §§4,5 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 250, Pt. D, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§434. Review of proposed exceptions to public records; accessibility of public records

1. Procedures before legislative committees. Whenever a legislative measure containing a new public records exception is proposed or a change that affects the accessibility of a public record is proposed, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over the proposal shall hold a public hearing and determine the level of support for the proposal among the members of the committee. If there is support for the proposal among a majority of the members of the committee, the committee shall request the review committee to review and evaluate the proposal pursuant to subsection 2 and to report back to the committee of jurisdiction. A proposed exception or proposed change that affects the accessibility of a public record may not be enacted into law unless review and evaluation pursuant to subsections 2 and 2-B have been completed.

[PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. D, §3 (AMD).]

2. Review and evaluation. Upon referral of a proposed public records exception from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over the proposal, the review committee shall conduct a review and evaluation of the proposal and shall report in a timely manner to the committee to which the proposal was referred. The review committee shall use the following criteria to determine whether the proposed exception should be enacted:

- A. Whether a record protected by the proposed exception needs to be collected and maintained; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]
- B. The value to the agency or official or to the public in maintaining a record protected by the proposed exception; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]
- C. Whether federal law requires a record covered by the proposed exception to be confidential; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]
- D. Whether the proposed exception protects an individual's privacy interest and, if so, whether that interest substantially outweighs the public interest in the disclosure of records; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]
- E. Whether public disclosure puts a business at a competitive disadvantage and, if so, whether that business's interest substantially outweighs the public interest in the disclosure of records; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]
- F. Whether public disclosure compromises the position of a public body in negotiations and, if so, whether that public body's interest substantially outweighs the public interest in the disclosure of records; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]
- G. Whether public disclosure jeopardizes the safety of a member of the public or the public in general and, if so, whether that safety interest substantially outweighs the public interest in the disclosure of records; [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]
- G-1. Whether public access to the record ensures or would ensure that members of the public are able to make informed health and safety decisions; [PL 2021, c. 313, §9 (NEW).]
- H. Whether the proposed exception is as narrowly tailored as possible; and [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]
- I. Any other criteria that assist the review committee in determining the value of the proposed exception as compared to the public's interest in the record protected by the proposed exception. [PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW).]
[PL 2021, c. 313, §9 (AMD).]

2-A. Accountability review of agency or official. In evaluating each proposed public records exception, the review committee shall, in addition to applying the criteria of subsection 2, determine whether there is a publicly accountable entity that has authority to review the agency or official that collects, maintains or uses the record subject to the exception in order to ensure that information collection, maintenance and use are consistent with the purpose of the exception and that public access to public records is not hindered. [PL 2005, c. 631, §6 (NEW).]

2-B. Accessibility of public records. In reviewing and evaluating whether a proposal may affect the accessibility of a public record, the review committee may consider any factors that affect the accessibility of public records, including but not limited to fees, request procedures and timeliness of responses. [PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. D, §3 (NEW).]

3. Report. The review committee shall report its findings and recommendations on whether the proposed exception or proposed limitation on accessibility should be enacted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over the proposal. [PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. D, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 709, §3 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 631, §6 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 320, Pt. D, §3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 313, §9 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2

DESTRUCTION OR MISUSE OF RECORDS

§451. Lawful destruction of records

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 441, §2 (RP).

§452. Removal, secretion, mutilation of or refusal to return state documents

Whoever intentionally removes any book, record, document or instrument belonging to or kept in any state office, except books and documents kept and deposited in the State Library, intentionally secretes, alters, mutilates, defaces or destroys any such book, record, document or instrument or, having possession or control of any such book, record, document or instrument, intentionally fails or refuses to return the same to that state office or to deliver the same to the person in lawful charge of the office where the same was kept or deposited is guilty of a Class D crime. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §13 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 318, §1 (RPR). PL 1977, c. 696, §10 (RPR). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §13 (COR).

SUBCHAPTER 3

PRINTING AND PURCHASE OF DOCUMENTS AND LAWS

§501. State agency defined

As used in this subchapter, the word "agency" shall mean a state department, agency, office, board, commission; or quasi-independent agency, board, commission, authority or institution. [PL 1975, c. 436, §1 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 436, §1 (RPR).

§501-A. Publications of state agencies

1. Definitions. As used in this section, the term "publications" includes periodicals; newsletters; bulletins; pamphlets; leaflets; directories; bibliographies; statistical reports; brochures; plan drafts; planning documents; reports; special reports; committee and commission minutes; informational handouts; and rules and compilations of rules, regardless of number of pages, number of copies ordered, physical size, publication medium or intended audience inside or outside the agency. [PL 1997, c. 299, §1 (NEW).]

2. Production and distribution. The publications of all agencies, the University of Maine System and the Maine Maritime Academy may be printed, bound and distributed, subject to Title 5, sections 43 to 46. The Chief Procurement Officer may determine the style in which publications may be printed and bound, with the approval of the Governor. [PL 2023, c. 516, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]

3. Annual or biennial reports. Immediately upon receipt of any annual or biennial report that is not included in the Maine State Government Annual Report provided for in Title 5, sections 43 to 46, the Chief Procurement Officer shall deliver at least 4 copies of that annual or biennial report to the State

Librarian for exchange and library use. The Chief Procurement Officer shall deliver the balance of the number of each such report to the agency that prepared the report.

[PL 2023, c. 516, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]

4. State agency and legislative committee publications. Except as provided in subsection 5, any agency or legislative committee publishing publications, including publications in an electronic format, shall deliver 4 copies of the publications in the published format to the State Librarian. These copies must be furnished at the expense of the issuing agency. Publications not furnished upon request will be reproduced at the expense of the issuing agency. The agency or committee preparing a publication may determine the date on which a publication may be released, except as otherwise provided by law. [PL 2021, c. 549, §2 (AMD).]

5. Electronic publishing. An agency or committee is required to provide the State Librarian with only one printed copy of an electronically published publication if the agency or committee provides the State Librarian with an electronically published copy for the State Librarian to upload to the online repository maintained by the Maine State Library pursuant to Title 27, section 66 or the agency or committee uploads an electronically published copy to the online repository maintained by the Maine State Library pursuant to Title 27, section 66. An electronically published publication is not required to be provided to the State Librarian if the publication is also published in print or in an electronic format and is provided to the State Librarian in compliance with subsection 4 or the publication is:

A. Designed to provide the public with current information and is subject to frequent additions and deletions, such as current lists of certified professionals, daily updates of weather conditions or fire hazards; or [PL 1997, c. 299, §1 (NEW).]

B. Designed to promote the agency's services or assist citizens in use of the agency's services, such as job advertisements, application forms, advertising brochures, letters and memos. [PL 1997, c. 299, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 549, §3 (AMD).]

6. Forwarding of requisitions. The Chief Procurement Officer, central printing service and all other printing operations within State Government shall forward to the State Librarian upon receipt one copy of all requisitions for publications to be printed.

[PL 2023, c. 516, Pt. B, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 436, §2 (NEW). PL 1975, c. 746, §1 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 584 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 779, §3 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 402, §A2 (RPR). PL 1997, c. 299, §1 (RPR). PL 2021, c. 549, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 516, Pt. B, §§1-3 (AMD).

§502. Property of State

All Maine reports, digests, statutes, codes and laws, printed or purchased by the State and previously distributed by law to the several towns and plantations within the State, shall be and remain the property of the State and shall be held in trust by such towns or plantations for the sole use of the inhabitants thereof.

§503. Delivery to successor in office

All revisions of and supplements to the statutes, the session laws and the Maine Reports sold or furnished to any state, county or municipal officer must be held in trust by that officer for the sole use of that officer's office; and at the expiration of that officer's term of office or on that officer's removal from office by death, resignation or other cause, that officer or, if that officer is dead, that officer's legal representatives shall turn those publications over to that officer's successor in office. If there is no successor to the office, that officer, or that officer's legal representatives, shall turn over all of those

publications to the state, county or municipal unit that purchased the same. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §14 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1965, c. 425, §2 (RPR). PL 1981, c. 48, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §14 (COR).

§504. Source of authority to be shown

All publications printed or published by the State as a requirement of law shall set forth the authority for the same at an appropriate place on each copy printed or published. Publications printed or published by the State which are not required by law shall set forth the source of funds by which the publication is printed or published at an appropriate place on each copy. This section shall not apply to publications paid for out of the legislative appropriation.

§505. Mailing lists

All addressees on mailing lists used for the distribution of all matters printed or distributed at state expense by dedicated or undedicated revenues shall at least once in every 12-month period be contacted in writing to inquire if continuance of delivery to said addressees is desired. Failure of the addressee to affirmatively reply within 30 days of the written inquiry shall cause such addressees to be removed from said mailing list. However, nothing in this section shall prevent any printed matter being distributed where otherwise required by law. [PL 1973, c. 331 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 331 (NEW).

SUBCHAPTER 4

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

§521. Executive orders

1. Available to public. The Governor shall maintain in the Governor's office a file containing a copy of every executive order issued by that Governor or by previous governors that is currently in effect. This file must be open to public inspection at reasonable hours.

[PL 2019, c. 475, §4 (AMD).]

2. Dissemination. A copy of every executive order must be filed with the Legislative Council and the Law and Legislative Reference Library, and the executive order must be posted in a conspicuous location on the State's publicly accessible website, within one week after the Governor has issued that order.

[PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. III, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 360 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 696, §11 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. III, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 475, §4 (AMD).

CHAPTER 14

ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

§531. Short title

This chapter may be known and cited as the "InforME Public Information Access Act." [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).

§532. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

1. Board. "Board" means the InforME Board established in section 534.
[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

1-A. Agency fees. "Agency fees" are fees defined in statute or agency rulemaking that the data custodian charges to provide a record or service.
[PL 2011, c. 321, §1 (NEW).]

2. Data custodian. "Data custodian" means any branch, agency or instrumentality of State Government or any agency or instrumentality of a political subdivision of the State that gathers, stores or generates public information.
[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

2-A. Electronic services. "Electronic services" means services provided by InforME through electronic means. "Electronic services" may include, but is not limited to, providing access to information, processing credential renewals, completing forms and filing documents.
[PL 2003, c. 406, §1 (NEW).]

2-B. Fee service. "Fee service" means an electronic service provided for a fee.
[PL 2011, c. 321, §2 (NEW).]

3. InforME. "InforME" means the system through which the State electronically provides public information, access to public information and electronic services to individuals, businesses and other entities.
[PL 2011, c. 321, §3 (AMD).]

3-A. Network manager. "Network manager" means the person under contract to carry out the duties described in section 535.
[RR 1997, c. 2, §1 (COR).]

3-B. Portal fee. "Portal fee" means a fee, authorized in section 534, paid by a user for a transaction.
[PL 2011, c. 321, §4 (NEW).]

4. Premium services. "Premium services" means InforME services that are available only to subscribers. Premium services include, but are not limited to, enhanced information access or other electronic services that provide significant value to the subscriber.
[PL 2011, c. 321, §5 (AMD).]

5. Public information. "Public information" means any information that is:

A. Stored, gathered or generated in digitized form by a data custodian; and [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

B. Either:

(1) A public record under section 402, subsection 3; or

(2) Otherwise expressly authorized to be released as specified by law. [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

6. Subscriber. "Subscriber" means an individual, business or organization who, in exchange for a fee established under section 534, subsection 5, paragraph G, subparagraph (8), receives access to premium services.

[PL 2011, c. 321, §6 (AMD).]

6-A. Transaction. "Transaction" means a transaction between a user and a data custodian involving electronic services, including but not limited to: the submission by a user of an application, registration or other document; the purchase by a user of a permit, license or other document or service; the payment of a tax, fee, fine or other charge; and the retrieval of records.

[PL 2011, c. 321, §7 (NEW).]

6-B. User. "User" means an individual, business or organization that uses electronic services, whether for a fee or at no charge.

[PL 2011, c. 321, §7 (NEW).]

7. User association. "User association" means an association:

A. Whose membership is identifiable by regular payment of association dues and regularly maintained membership lists; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

B. That is registered with the State or is a Maine corporation; and [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

C. That exists for the purpose of advancing the common occupation or profession of its membership. [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 1997, c. 2, §1 (COR). PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 406, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 321, §§1-7 (AMD).

§533. InforME established; purposes

Information Resource of Maine, referred to as "InforME," is established with the following purposes: [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

1. Electronic gateway. To serve as a self-supporting and cost-effective electronic gateway to provide and enhance access to the State's public information for individuals, businesses and other entities and to provide electronic services;

[PL 2003, c. 406, §3 (AMD).]

2. Rational, standardized, comprehensive services. To provide rational, standardized and comprehensive services by enabling universal continuous access to accurate, current public information that may be searched to suit the user's own purposes. These services include, at a minimum, providing standardized access to customized databases, data custodians' databases and links to other information sources;

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

3. Electronic transactions. To conduct electronic transactions;

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

4. Electronic dissemination of public information. To assist state agencies in electronically disseminating public information in their custody;

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

5. Constantly improve access and utility. To constantly improve access to and the utility of the public information available through InforME by exploring and, where appropriate, implementing ways to:

- A. Expand the amount and kind of public information available free of charge; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Increase the utility of the public information provided and the form in which it is provided; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- C. Expand the base of users who access the public information; and [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- D. Improve individual and business access to public information through improvements in technology; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- 6. Accuracy of information.** To provide opportunities for individuals, businesses and other entities to review public information for accuracy and to indicate to the data custodian when corrections may be appropriate;
[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- 7. Information conduit.** To provide a mechanism for the authorized transfer of nonpublic information;
[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- 8. Private-public partnerships and interagency cooperation.** To promote opportunities for private-public partnerships and interagency cooperation;
[PL 2003, c. 406, §4 (AMD).]
- 9. Innovative uses of information.** To provide opportunities for innovative uses of public information; and
[PL 2003, c. 406, §4 (AMD).]
- 10. Collection of funds.** To collect funds for information and electronic services provided and transactions conducted electronically. State funds must be either directly deposited into an account of the Treasurer of State or transferred in a timely manner to a state deposit account as mutually agreed upon by the Treasurer of State and InforME.
[PL 2003, c. 406, §5 (NEW).]

Nothing in this Act may be construed to affect the rights of persons to inspect or copy public records under chapter 13, subchapter I or the duty of data custodians to provide for public inspection and copying of those records. [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 406, §§3-5 (AMD).

§534. InforME Board

1. Membership. The InforME Board, as established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 30-A, consists of 15 voting members and 2 nonvoting, advisory members as follows:

- A. The Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- B. Three members who are chief executive officers of agencies of the executive branch that are major data custodians, who are appointed by the Governor and who serve at the pleasure of the Governor, or their designees; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- C. A representative of each of the following:
- (1) The University of Maine System, appointed by the chancellor;
 - (2) A statewide association of municipalities, appointed by the Governor from nominations made by the association's governing body;

(3) Nonprofit or user organizations advancing citizens' rights of access to information, appointed by the Governor; and

(4) A statewide association of public librarians, appointed by the Governor from nominations made by the association's governing body.

The term for members appointed pursuant to this paragraph is 3 years; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

D. Two members from user associations of a statewide character appointed by the Governor. After the initial appointments, the Governor shall appoint user association members from a list of not less than 6 user association representatives compiled by the board. No 2 members appointed pursuant to this paragraph may represent the same user association. The terms for the members appointed pursuant to this paragraph are for a period of 3 years, except initially, when terms are for one, 2 and 3 years respectively; [PL 2005, c. 5, §1 (AMD).]

E. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services or the commissioner's designee; [PL 2001, c. 388, §1 (AMD).]

F. The State Librarian or the State Librarian's designee; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

G. Two public members, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

H. A representative of the membership or staff of the Judicial Department, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, who serves as a nonvoting member; [PL 2005, c. 5, §2 (AMD).]

I. The chief executive officer or designee of the private entity under contract as the network manager who serves as a nonvoting member; and [PL 2005, c. 5, §2 (AMD).]

J. The Chief Information Officer of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services or the Chief Information Officer's designee. [PL 2005, c. 5, §3 (NEW).]

A member who designates another person to serve on the board as that member's designee shall provide written notice to the board staff of the name and title of the designee.

Appointing authorities shall make their appointments and provide written notice of the appointments to the board staff no later than September 1, 1998.

[PL 2005, c. 5, §§1-3 (AMD).]

2. Board chair. The Governor shall appoint one member of the board as chair. [PL 2007, c. 37, §1 (AMD).]

3. Staff. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology shall provide staff to the board. [PL 2007, c. 37, §2 (AMD).]

4. Quorum; action. Eight voting members of the board constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of 8 members is necessary for any action taken by the board. A vacancy in the membership of the board does not impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the powers and perform the duties of the board. The board may use video conferencing and other technologies to conduct its business, but is not exempt from chapter 13, subchapter I. [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

5. Duties. The board shall:

A. Carry out the purposes of InforME as provided in section 533; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

- B. Approve the criteria and specifications for a network manager and its duties developed by the Chief Information Officer within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services; [PL 2007, c. 37, §3 (AMD).]
- C. Approve the contract with the network manager; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- D. Establish InforME policies and performance criteria and review and approve strategic plans submitted by the network manager; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- E. Assess the performance of the network manager; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- F. Approve services offered.
- (1) The board may not approve a service that provides access to public records and data in the form they are maintained by the data custodian and available for public inspection under chapter 13, subchapter 1 as a premium service; [PL 2011, c. 321, §8 (AMD).]
- G. Review revenue and expenditures and approve fees and fee schedules to be levied by the network manager.
- (1) Fees must be sufficient to maintain, develop, operate and expand InforME on a continuing basis.
 - (2) Fees for services must be reasonable but sufficient to support the maximum amount of information and services provided at no charge.
 - (3) The board may establish fee schedules that include no charge for designated services for one or more specified classes of users. If services are to be provided at no charge to libraries, the services must be provided to libraries designated as depository libraries for government documents pursuant to 44 United States Code, Chapter 19 and to any other libraries the board designates.
 - (4) Fees must be sufficient to ensure that, to the extent possible, data custodians do not suffer loss of revenues from sources that are approved or authorized by law due to the operations of InforME.
 - (5) Fees must be sufficient to ensure that data custodians are reimbursed for the actual costs of providing data to InforME.
 - (6) Fees must be sufficient to meet the expenses of the board.
 - (7) The board may approve, when applicable, service level agreements entered into by InforME and data custodians for information, electronic services and transactions provided by InforME.
 - (8) The board may establish a subscription fee for subscribers.
 - (9) The board may establish portal fees to maintain, develop, operate and expand InforME on a continuing basis. A portal fee may not exceed \$6 plus 3% of the total charges for each transaction, except that the board may establish a higher portal fee by major substantive rule as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A; [PL 2011, c. 321, §9 (AMD).]
- H. Develop and implement a mechanism to resolve disputes involving the network manager and data custodians, users or subscribers; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]
- I. Approve interagency agreements that affect electronic services; [PL 2011, c. 321, §10 (AMD).]
- J. Approve service level agreements between data custodians and the network manager, except that, agreements between the legislative or judicial branches and the network manager do not require approval; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

K. Adopt rules pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act to carry out this chapter. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8071, subsection 2, rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules; [PL 2003, c. 406, §7 (AMD).]

L. Report annually beginning January 1, 1999 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state government matters. The report must include a complete list of services offered through the InforME system, the fees associated with services and the criteria used to determine which services are offered as premium services. In its January 1, 1999 report, the board must also include an analysis of the feasibility of offering premium services at no charge to depository libraries or other libraries in the State; and [PL 2003, c. 406, §7 (AMD).]

M. Authorize the network manager to collect funds pursuant to section 533, subsection 10 for information and electronic services provided and transactions conducted electronically. [PL 2003, c. 406, §8 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 321, §§8-10 (AMD).]

6. Meetings. The board shall meet at the call of the chair but not less than quarterly. [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

7. Compensation. Board members are entitled to compensation pursuant to Title 5, chapter 379. [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 388, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 406, §§6-8 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 5, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 37, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 321, §§8-10 (AMD).

§535. InforME network manager; contract terms and duties

1. Criteria and specifications; contract terms. The Chief Information Officer within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services or the Chief Information Officer's designee, in consultation with the board, shall develop criteria and specifications for a network manager and its duties. The Chief Information Officer shall develop and release a request for proposals to solicit bids from private entities to serve as the network manager. The Chief Information Officer shall develop the terms and conditions of the contract, which must include at least the following:

A. Perpetual licensing to the board of software and other intellectual property developed by the network manager for use by InforME; and [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

B. Procedures ensuring that executive branch and semiautonomous state agencies and the network manager comply with the standards and policies adopted by the Chief Information Officer of the Office of Information Technology within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. [PL 2007, c. 37, §4 (AMD).]

[PL 2007, c. 37, §4 (AMD).]

2. Network manager duties. The network manager shall:

A. Serve as an agent of the State in carrying out the purposes of InforME; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

B. Direct and supervise the day-to-day operations and expansion of InforME, including the initial phase of operations necessary to make InforME operational; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

C. Attend meetings of the board; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

D. Deposit and disburse funds as directed by the board and service level agreements; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

E. Keep a record of all operations of InforME and maintain and be a custodian of all financial and operation records, documents and papers filed with InforME. The records of InforME are the property of the board, not the network manager; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

F. Develop fees for the services provided to users, agencies and subscribers, which must meet the provisions of section 534, subsection 5, paragraph G; [PL 2011, c. 321, §11 (AMD).]

G. Develop and regularly update, in cooperation with the data custodians, a draft strategic plan for InforME for presentation to the board. The draft must include proposed measurable performance criteria; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

H. Report to the board on a periodic basis concerning potential new data and services and related redacting issues; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

I. Seek advice from the general public, subscribers, professional associations, academic groups and institutions and individuals with knowledge of and interest in areas of networking, electronic mail, public information access, gateway services, add-on services and electronic filing of information; [PL 2003, c. 406, §9 (AMD).]

J. Ensure that confidential information is not disclosed by the network manager without the express authorization of the data custodian; and [PL 2003, c. 406, §9 (AMD).]

K. Collect funds for electronic services and information provided and distribute funds collected to the appropriate data custodians or agencies pursuant to section 533, subsection 10; [PL 2003, c. 406, §10 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 321, §11 (AMD).]

3. Powers. The network manager may:

A. Negotiate and enter into contracts for professional consulting, research and other services; and [PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §3 (AMD).]

B. To the extent permitted by the service level agreement between the network manager and the data custodian, have access to confidential information if it is necessary to carry out the duties of the network manager or the purposes of InforME. The network manager is subject to the same limitations and penalties as a data custodian concerning the use and disclosure of confidential information. [PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §4 (AMD).]

C. [PL 2007, c. 37, §5 (RP).]

[PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §§3-4 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 406, §§9,10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 681, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 12, §SS1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 37, §§4, 5 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. A, §§3-4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 321, §11 (AMD).

§536. Network manager and data custodian responsibilities

1. Voluntary cooperation. All data custodians may voluntarily cooperate with the network manager in providing public information, access to public information and assistance as may be requested for achieving InforME's purposes.

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

2. Duplication of fee services. Executive branch and semiautonomous state agencies may not provide services that duplicate fee services offered by InforME except as authorized by the board.

[PL 2011, c. 321, §12 (AMD).]

3. Service level agreements. Services provided by the network manager and information to be provided by a data custodian are governed by service level agreements between the network manager

and the data custodian. A service level agreement may include a provision for the network manager to receive a portion of the agency fee for information or services in return for electronically providing that information or service.

[PL 2011, c. 321, §13 (AMD).]

4. Data custodian responsibilities. Data custodians are responsible for:

A. Ensuring that the public information is accurate, complete and current; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

B. Updating the source data bases following verification of suggested corrections that users send to InforME; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

C. Identifying how and from whom the information was acquired by the data custodian; and [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

D. Providing reasonable safeguards to protect confidentiality to the level required by law. [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

5. InforME network manager responsibilities. The network manager is responsible for:

A. Transmitting or providing access to public information; [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

B. Providing reasonable safeguards to protect confidentiality to the level required by law; and [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

C. Providing notices and disclaimers that include at least the following:

(1) How to address concerns if the public information appears to be inaccurate; and

(2) That InforME assumes no role for monitoring the information content to determine if it is accurate, complete or current. [PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

6. Redacting data. When developing new systems, a data custodian shall consult with the network manager regarding current practices for efficiently redacting data.

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

7. Disclaimer. If the network manager provides public information that is stored, gathered or generated by the legislative branch, the network manager shall include the following disclaimer:

"This data was compiled from information made public by the legislative branch."

The disclaimer is not required if the information is prepared pursuant to a contract between the network manager and the Legislative Council.

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 37, §6 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 321, §§12,13 (AMD).

§537. Financial requirements

1. Funding. InforME is self-supporting and may not receive an appropriation or allocation from the General Fund or other state funds.

Revenue is generated through fees on services paid by data custodians, subscribers or users, from contracts with other state departments and agencies and from money, goods or in-kind services donated or awarded to carry out the purposes of this Act.

[PL 2011, c. 321, §14 (AMD).]

2. Fiscal year. InforME's fiscal year begins January 1st and ends on December 31st of each calendar year.

[PL 2011, c. 321, §15 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 321, §17 (AFF).]

3. Annual audit. The network manager shall submit to the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services within 120 days after the close of InforME's fiscal year InforME's annual financial report and audit certified by an independent certified public accountant, who may be the accountant or a member of the firm of accountants who regularly audit the books and accounts of the network manager, selected by the network manager. The audit information forwarded by the network manager to the commissioner must include but is not limited to the audited financial statements, auditor opinions, reports on internal control, findings and recommendations and management letters. InforME is subject to any further audit and review determined necessary by the Governor or the Legislative Council after furnishing reasonable notice to the network manager.

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 37, §7 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 321, §§14,15 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 321, §17 (AFF).

§538. Copyrights, licensing restrictions and confidentiality

1. Information. The information developed by the network manager for InforME and public information made available through InforME is owned by the public, and copyright or licensing restrictions may not be fixed to this information by the board, the network manager or data custodians.

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

2. Custody of network manager. The fact that information is in the custody of the network manager does not by itself make that information a public record.

[PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW).]

3. User records. Information in records of the network manager or collected by InforME relating to the identity of or use by users of electronic services is confidential and may be released only with the express permission of the user or pursuant to court order. This subsection does not affect the public record status of any records of data custodians regarding users.

[PL 2011, c. 321, §16 (RPR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 713, §1 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 321, §16 (AMD).

CHAPTER 14-A

NOTICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

§541. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

1. Personal information. "Personal information" means information about a natural person that readily identifies that specific person.

[PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

2. Public entity. "Public entity" means:

A. The Legislature; [PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

B. The Judicial Department; [PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

C. A state agency or authority; [PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

D. The University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy and the Maine Community College System; [PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §4 (AFF).]

E. A county, municipality, school district or any regional or other political or administrative subdivision; and [PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

F. An advisory organization established, authorized or organized by law or resolve or by executive order issued by the Governor. [PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §2 (AMD); PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §4 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 321, §B1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §OO4 (AFF).

§542. Notice of information practices

Each public entity that has a publicly accessible site on the Internet associated with it shall develop a policy regarding its practices relating to personal information and shall post notice of those practices on its publicly accessible site on the Internet. The policy must include: [PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

1. Information collected. A description of the personal information collected on the publicly accessible site on the Internet;

[PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

2. Use and disclosure of information. A summary of how the personal information is used by the public entity and the circumstances under which it may be disclosed to others;

[PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

3. Choice. The extent to which the user has a choice of whether to provide personal information via the publicly accessible site on the Internet and the consequences of refusing to give that information;

[PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

4. Procedures for access and correction. The procedures, if any, by which the user may request access to that user's personal information and request correction of that information; and

[PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

5. Security. The steps taken to protect personal information from misuse or unauthorized access.

[PL 2001, c. 321, Pt. B, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 321, §B1 (NEW).

CHAPTER 14-B

DATA GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

§547. Data governance program established

The Secretary of State, or the secretary's designee, and the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, or the commissioner's designee, shall establish a data governance program. [PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (AMD).]

1. Implementation. Implementation of a data governance program must include:

- A. Establishing data project priorities; [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
 - B. Ensuring data privacy compliance and that best practices are followed; [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
 - C. Developing data structure policies that ensure the best data quality, alignment and availability across systems; and [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
 - D. Establishing data-sharing policies and agreements. [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
- [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]

2. Program requirements. The data governance program must:

- A. Support decision making and improve citizen access to government services; [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
 - B. Promote consistent collection of racial and ethnic demographic data; [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
 - C. Use evidence-based strategies to improve data collection; [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
 - D. Address technology barriers that restrict the ability of state agencies to share data between agencies; [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
 - E. Create models for sharing data with the public and for developing policies to reduce disparities and increase equity that take into consideration the norms and expectations of the diverse populations of the State; [PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (AMD).]
 - F. Include records management capabilities and compliance; [PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (AMD).]
 - G. Ensure that data sharing and usage complies with state and federal laws, rules and regulations; and [PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (AMD).]
 - H. Adhere to the records retention schedules developed by the State Archivist pursuant to Title 5, section 95-C. [PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (NEW).]
- [PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (AMD).]

3. Consultations. The Secretary of State, or the secretary's designee, and the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, or the commissioner's designee, shall consult at least quarterly with:

- A. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations established by Title 5, section 12004-J, subsection 19 to discuss how racial equity will be incorporated in the data governance program as well as in all projects related to the program. The consultation must include discussion of methods for building racial equity considerations into every aspect of the data life cycle, including planning, data collection, data access, algorithms, statistical tools, data analysis, reporting and dissemination; and [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
 - B. The State Archivist, or the archivist's designee, regarding the development and implementation of the data governance program and to generate a records management and retention plan and program in compliance with Title 5, section 95-C. [PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW).]
- [PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (AMD).]

4. Report. The Secretary of State, or the secretary's designee, the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, or the commissioner's designee, and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations established by Title 5, section 12004-J, subsection 19 shall jointly report on the status of the program and the consultations under subsection 3 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters annually by February 15th. The committee may report out a bill based on the report during the legislative session in which the report is received.

[PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (AMD).]

5. State agency designee. Each state agency shall designate an employee with the responsibility to oversee the agency's compliance with the data governance program established pursuant to this section.

[PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (NEW).]

6. Inventory. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, or the commissioner's designee, shall work with the state agency designees under subsection 5 to inventory the collection and availability of demographic data fields by the state agency, including, but not limited to, gender, location, race, ethnicity, birth sex, citizenship, socioeconomic status, education, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability status and age. This inventory is distinct from the definitions and standards developed pursuant to subsection 7 and is not itself data collection.

[PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (NEW).]

7. Definitions and standards. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, or the commissioner's designee, shall develop a definition and standard for certain demographic data fields, including, but not limited to, gender, location, race, ethnicity, birth sex, citizenship, socioeconomic status, education, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability status and age. The definitions and standards must be developed in consultation with the Department of the Secretary of State and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations established by Title 5, section 12004-J, subsection 19.

[PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (NEW).]

8. Stakeholder group. To the extent resources are available, the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, or the commissioner's designee, shall work with the Department of the Secretary of State and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations established by Title 5, section 12004-J, subsection 19 to convene a stakeholder group at least once each year to review progress in developing and implementing the data governance program. When inviting members to the stakeholder group, consideration must be given to racial, ethnic, gender, socioeconomic and other demographic diversity.

[PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 717, §1 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 581, §1 (AMD).

CHAPTER 15

STATE PAPER; LEGAL NOTICES

SUBCHAPTER 1

STATE PAPER

§551. Designation of paper

The Kennebec Journal is the state paper of this State, in which must be published all advertisements, notices and orders required by law to be published in the state paper. [PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1973, c. 625, §4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 691, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2**LEGAL NOTICES****§601. Publication of legal notices and advertising**

To be qualified as a medium for the publication of legal notices, legal advertising and other matter required by law to be published in a newspaper, a newspaper, unless otherwise ordered by the court in the proceedings, must be printed in the English language; must be entered as 2nd class postal matter in the United States mails; and must have general circulation in the vicinity where the notice is required to be published. Any legal notice, legal advertising or other matter required by law to be published in a newspaper must appear in all editions of that newspaper and must appear on any publicly accessible website that the newspaper maintains in accordance with the requirements of section 603. [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §1 (AMD).]

Beginning July 1, 2013, a newspaper publishing legal notices may not charge agencies of the executive branch a rate greater than the rate that the newspaper charges the Legislature to publish legal notices. [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1967, c. 428, §1 (AMD). PL 1987, c. 667, §1 (RPR). PL 1997, c. 405, §1 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §1 (AMD).

§602. Additional media for publication of notices

Notwithstanding section 601, all probate notices, notices of foreclosure, other legal notices, legal advertising and other matter required by law to be published in a newspaper that have been published in the Coastal Journal from the date of its first publication on November 3, 1966 and in the Somerset Gazette from the date of its first publication on April 16, 1990 to June 2, 1993, and that would have been valid but for the provision of section 601 that requires a newspaper carrying such notices to be entered as 2nd class postal matter, are declared to be valid. [RR 1997, c. 2, §2 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 239, §1 (NEW). RR 1997, c. 2, §2 (COR).

§603. Electronic notice

1. Electronic posting of legal notices. A legal notice appearing in a newspaper pursuant to section 601 must be placed on any publicly accessible website that the newspaper maintains in the following manner:

A. The legal notice must be placed on the newspaper's publicly accessible website no later than the same day that it appears in the newspaper; [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

B. A link to legal notices must be provided on the home page of the newspaper's publicly accessible website; [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

C. Legal notices appearing on the newspaper's publicly accessible website must be presented in a clear and conspicuous manner and must be of sufficient size to be clearly readable; [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

D. Legal notices must be the dominant subject matter of the page on the newspaper's publicly accessible website on which they are placed; and [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

E. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the newspaper's publicly accessible website must have a search function allowing readers to search legal notices that appear on the website. [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

A newspaper may not charge an additional fee for placing a legal notice on the newspaper's publicly accessible website or for submitting a legal notice to the electronic repository established pursuant to subsection 2.

[PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

2. Statewide repository for legal notices. Beginning July 1, 2014, a statewide association representing newspapers shall establish and maintain, at its own expense, a publicly accessible electronic repository for any legal notice appearing on a publicly accessible newspaper website in accordance with subsection 1. A newspaper publishing legal notices in accordance with section 601 shall submit the legal notice to the repository.

Beginning July 1, 2014, a newspaper that publishes legal notices in accordance with section 601 shall provide a link to the statewide repository for e-mail notification of any new legal notices added to any publicly accessible website that the newspaper maintains. E-mail notifications must be sent on the same day that the new legal notice appears on the newspaper's publicly accessible website. A newspaper must prominently display information regarding the ability to receive e-mail notifications from the repository and the process for requesting such notifications on the page of the newspaper's publicly accessible website where legal notices appear. The statewide association representing newspapers that establishes and maintains the publicly accessible electronic repository is responsible for providing e-mail notification of legal notices upon request and at no charge.

[PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §2 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. YYYY, §5 (AFF). PL 2017, c. 19, §1 (AMD).

CHAPTER 17

EMERGENCY INTERIM EXECUTIVE SUCCESSION

(REPEALED)

§651. Short title

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§652. Statement of policy

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§653. Definitions

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§654. Additional successor to office of Governor

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§655. Emergency interim successors for state officers

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§656. Enabling authority for emergency interim officers

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§657. Emergency interim successors for local offices

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§658. Formalities of taking office for emergency interim successors

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§659. Period in which authority may be exercised

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§660. Removal of designees

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

§661. Disputes

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 207, §1 (RP).

CHAPTER 19

EMERGENCY LOCATION OF GOVERNMENTS

SUBCHAPTER 1

EMERGENCY LOCATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT

§711. Proclamation of Governor

Whenever, due to an emergency resulting from the effects of enemy attack, or the anticipated effects of a threatened enemy attack, it becomes imprudent, inexpedient or impossible to conduct the affairs of State Government at the normal location of the seat thereof in Augusta, the Governor shall, as often as the exigencies of the situation require, by proclamation, declare an emergency temporary location, or locations, for the seat of government at such place, or places, within or without this State as the Governor considers advisable under the circumstances, and shall take such action and issue such orders as may be necessary for an orderly transition of the affairs of State Government to that emergency temporary location, or locations. The emergency temporary location, or locations, remains as the seat of government until the Legislature by law establishes a new location, or locations, or until the emergency is declared to be ended by the Governor and the seat of government is returned to its normal location. [PL 2019, c. 475, §5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 475, §5 (AMD).

§712. Acts performed at emergency location are valid and binding

During such time as the seat of government remains at such emergency temporary location, or locations, all official acts now or hereafter required by law to be performed at the seat of government by any officer, agency, department or authority of this State, including the convening and meeting of the Legislature in regular, extraordinary or emergency session, shall be as valid and binding when performed at such emergency temporary location, or locations, as if performed at the normal location of the seat of government.

§713. Application of provisions

This subchapter shall control and be supreme in the event they shall be employed, notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary or in conflict herewith.

SUBCHAPTER 2

EMERGENCY LOCATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

§761. Action by governing body

Whenever, due to an emergency resulting from the effects of enemy attack, or the anticipated effects of a threatened enemy attack, it becomes imprudent, inexpedient or impossible to conduct the affairs of local government at the regular or usual place or places thereof, the governing body of each political subdivision of this State may meet at any place within or without the territorial limits of such political subdivision on the call of the presiding officer or any 2 members of such governing body, and shall proceed to establish and designate by ordinance, resolution or other manner, alternate or substitute sites or places as the emergency temporary location, or locations, of government where all, or any part, of the public business may be transacted and conducted during the emergency situation. Such sites or places may be within or without the territorial limits of such political subdivision and may be within or without this State.

§762. Powers

During the period when the public business is being conducted at the emergency temporary location, or locations, the governing body and other officers of a political subdivision of this State shall have and possess and shall exercise, at such location, or locations, all of the executive, legislative and

judicial powers and functions conferred upon such body and officers by or under the laws of this State. Such powers and functions may be exercised in the light of the exigencies of the emergency situation without regard to or compliance with time consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law and pertaining thereto, and all acts of such body and officers shall be as valid and binding as if performed within the territorial limits of their political subdivision.

§763. Applicability of provisions

This subchapter shall control and be supreme in the event they shall be employed, notwithstanding any statutory, charter or ordinance provision to the contrary or in conflict herewith.

CHAPTER 21

EMINENT DOMAIN

§811. Real property or interest therein may be taken

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 544, §1 (RP).

§812. Manner of taking

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 544, §1 (RP).

§813. Procedure

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 544, §1 (RP).

§814. Purchase of real estate

1. Expansion in the Capitol Area. Whenever the Governor determines that public exigencies require the construction of additional buildings, structures, parking spaces or other facilities for the expansion of State Government in the Capitol Area, the Governor may purchase or take by eminent domain real estate in Augusta.

[PL 1991, c. 824, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

2. Capitol Area defined. The Capitol Area is defined as the following described premises:

A. The west side of the Kennebec River as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the westerly line of Sewall Street with the northerly line of Capitol Street; thence westerly along said northerly line of Capitol Street to a point opposite the intersection of the westerly line of Federal Street and the southerly line of Capitol Street; thence continuing westerly along the northerly line of said Capitol Street 150 feet to a point; thence southerly across Capitol Street and continuing southerly parallel to said westerly line of Federal Street about 800 feet to Kennedy Brook; thence following the thread of the stream generally easterly to its intersection with the northerly property line of the land of the State of Maine, being part of the Motor Vehicles premises; thence westerly about 60 feet along said property line; thence southerly along said property line about 155 feet; thence easterly along said property line about 140 feet; thence southerly along said property line about 120 feet to the northerly line of Manley Street; thence diagonally and southwesterly across Manley

Street to its intersection with the northwesterly corner of other land of the State of Maine; thence southerly along said property line extended to the northerly line of Glenwood Street; thence along said Glenwood Street easterly to the westerly line of State Street; thence northerly along said State Street about 150 feet to a point opposite the northerly line of Britt Street; thence across State Street and along the northerly line of said Britt Street easterly to its intersection with property of Augusta Sanitary District; thence northerly and easterly as said property line may run to its intersection with the Kennebec River; thence along said river northerly as the same may run to its intersection with the southerly line of Highway Route 201; thence southwesterly along said highway line, as the same may run, to the easterly line of State Street at its intersection with Memorial Traffic Circle; thence across State Street in a northwesterly direction to the southeasterly line of Grove Street at its intersection with Memorial Traffic Circle; thence southwesterly along said Grove Street to the northerly line of Higgins Street; thence across Grove Street; thence southerly along Grove Street to its intersection with the northerly line of Wade Street; thence westerly about 400 feet in a straight line along Wade Street and its northerly line extended to the westerly line of Sewall Street; thence southerly along Sewall Street to the point of beginning; and [PL 2015, c. 168, §1 (AMD).]

B. The east side of the Kennebec River as follows: Beginning at a point at the intersection of the northerly line of the Old Arsenal Grounds with the westerly line of Hospital Street; thence westerly along said northerly line of the Old Arsenal Grounds 1,680 feet to a point at the Kennebec River; thence following the river generally southwesterly to a point where a projected northeasterly line of Kelton Road would meet the river, being a point 2,185 feet, more or less, from the intersection of said road and the northwesterly line of Hospital Street; thence southeasterly to and along the projected northwesterly line of Kelton Road from the river to a point on the southwest corner of the lands of the Augusta Sanitary District 564.19 feet, more or less, from the intersection of Kelton Road and Hospital Street; thence northeasterly at an interior angle of 89° 20' a distance of 84.88 feet to a point; thence southeasterly at an interior angle of 90° a distance of 76.09 feet to a point; thence northeasterly at an interior angle of 270° a distance of 98.74 feet to a point; thence at an interior angle of 90° 20' a distance of 212.8 feet, more or less, on a line bearing S 61° 20' E to a point; thence southwesterly at an interior angle of 90° a distance of 36.06 feet, more or less, to a point on the northerly line of the Augusta Sanitary District property; thence in an easterly direction at an angle 90° and a distance of 128.42 feet, more or less, to a point; thence in a northerly direction at an angle of 90° a distance of 73 feet to a point; thence in an easterly direction at an angle of 90° and a distance of 143 feet, more or less, to a point on the westerly line of Hospital Street; thence northeasterly along the westerly line of Hospital Street 3,125 feet to a point on the southeast corner of the lands of the City of Augusta; thence westerly at right angle 185 feet to a point; thence southerly at right angle 25 feet to a point; thence westerly at right angle 115 feet to a point; thence northerly at right angle 140 feet to a point; thence easterly at right angle 115 feet to a point; thence northerly at right angle 20 feet to a stone bound; thence easterly at right angle 185 feet to the westerly line of Hospital Street; thence northerly along the westerly line of Hospital Street 380 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. [PL 1991, c. 824, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2015, c. 168, §1 (AMD).]

3. Procedure. All proceedings under this section must be in accordance with Title 35-A, chapter 65.

[PL 1991, c. 824, Pt. A, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1969, c. 380 (RPR). PL 1971, c. 544, §2 (RPR). PL 1975, c. 470, §1 (RPR). PL 1975, c. 771, §4 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 502, §A1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 538, §1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 824, §A1 (RPR). PL 2015, c. 168, §1 (AMD).

§815. Abandonment of purpose; rights of condemnee

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if an entity that has taken property by eminent domain fails to use the property for the project or purpose for which that property was taken, the condemnee or the condemnee's heirs have a right of first refusal to purchase the property as provided in this section. The right may be exercised at a price equal to the total compensation paid to the condemnee for the taking plus an adjustment for any improvements made to the property and for changes in inflation based upon the Consumer Price Index. The right of first refusal automatically terminates once the property is used for the project or purpose for which that property was taken. The purpose of a taking may be passive in nature, including conservation or preservation. [PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. Q, §1 (AMD).]

1. Reaffirmation of public purpose. If a property has not been used for the purpose for which it was taken after 8 years from the date of condemnation, the entity must reaffirm the need to retain the property for that purpose by giving notice to the public of its continuing intent to use the property for that purpose. Notice to the public is by publication twice consecutively in a daily or weekly newspaper having general circulation in the municipality or political subdivision in which the property is located. If the purpose of the taking was to construct improvements, the property is deemed as being used for that purpose upon the commencement of substantial on-site construction activity. After the initial reaffirmation, for so long as the property has not been used for the purpose for which it was taken, the entity must reaffirm the need to retain the property every 3 years. Reaffirmation under this subsection does not constitute a retaking of the property, and this section does not require the entity to make additional payments to the condemnee or the condemnee's heirs. If the entity fails to reaffirm the need to retain the property, the entity must notify the condemnee or the condemnee's heirs as described in subsection 2.

[PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]

2. Notification of right of first refusal. If the need to retain the property is not reaffirmed as required by subsection 1, the entity using eminent domain must give written notice of the right of first refusal provided by this subsection to the condemnee or the condemnee's heirs by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by any other method that produces written evidence of receipt. Notice is sufficient under this subsection if the signed receipt is returned or the certified mail is returned as refused by the recipient.

A. If after reasonable diligence the address of the condemnee or the condemnee's heirs can not be determined, the notice is sufficient if it is published twice consecutively in a daily or weekly newspaper having general circulation in the municipality or political subdivision in which the property obtained by eminent domain is located. [PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]

B. If, within 90 days of the issuance of the written notice or the second publishing date as required by this subsection, the condemnee or the condemnee's heirs have either refused the right of first refusal on the property or failed to respond to the notice, then the entity may dispose of the property in any manner allowed by law free and clear from any rights provided by this section. [PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]

3. Waiver of rights under this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the condemnee or the condemnee's heirs may waive or release any rights provided under this section at any time.

[PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]

4. Exemptions. This section does not apply to property taken by eminent domain if that property:

A. Was taken in whole or in part using federal funds or the eminent domain authority to take the property was derived from federal law; [PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]

B. Does not meet state or municipal lot size or frontage requirements; [PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]

C. Was taken to expand existing corridors used for transportation or utility purposes including highways, bridges, railroad lines or utility lines; or [PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]

D. Was taken before October 1, 2001. [PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 328, §2 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. Q, §1 (AMD).

§816. Limitations on eminent domain authority

1. Purposes. Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3 and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State, a political subdivision of the State and any other entity with eminent domain authority may not condemn land used for agriculture, fishing or forestry or land improved with residential homes, commercial or industrial buildings or other structures:

A. For the purposes of private retail, office, commercial, industrial or residential development; [PL 2005, c. 579, §1 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 579, §2 (AFF).]

B. Primarily for the enhancement of tax revenue; or [PL 2005, c. 579, §1 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 579, §2 (AFF).]

C. For transfer to an individual or a for-profit business entity. [PL 2005, c. 579, §1 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 579, §2 (AFF).]
[PL 2005, c. 579, §1 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 579, §2 (AFF).]

2. Blight exception. Subsection 1 does not apply to the use of eminent domain by any municipality, housing authority or other public entity based upon a finding of blight in an area covered by any redevelopment plan or urban renewal plan pursuant to Title 30-A, chapter 201, 203 or 205, but just compensation, in all cases, must continue to be made to the owner.
[PL 2005, c. 579, §1 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 579, §2 (AFF).]

3. Utilities exception. Subsection 1 does not limit the exercise of eminent domain by or for the benefit of public utilities or other entities engaged in the generation, transmission or distribution of telephone, gas, electric, water, sewer or other utility products or services.
[PL 2005, c. 579, §1 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 579, §2 (AFF).]

4. Governmental purposes not affected. Nothing in this section may be interpreted to prohibit a municipal or county governing body from exercising the power of eminent domain for purposes not otherwise prohibited by subsection 1.
[PL 2005, c. 579, §1 (NEW); PL 2005, c. 579, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 579, §1 (NEW). PL 2005, c. 579, §2 (AFF).

CHAPTER 23

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

§901. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a uniform policy for the treatment of persons displaced as a result of federally assisted state programs in order that such persons shall not suffer as a result of programs designed for the benefit of the public as a whole, and to enable the State to comply with certain laws enacted by the Congress of the United States. [PL 1971, c. 597 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 597 (NEW).

§902. State acceptance of federal funds; compliance with federal laws

Whenever the acquisition of real property for a program undertaken by the State or any other public or private entity subject to the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, PL 91-646 and 100-17, Title IV, as amended, referred to in this chapter as the "Federal Uniform Relocation Act," will result in the displacement of any person on or after April 2, 1989, and the program is eligible for federal financial assistance, the State and any other public or private entity subject to the Federal Uniform Relocation Act may receive the federal financial assistance and upon or in anticipation of receipt thereof, may comply with all of the provisions of, be guided to the greatest extent practicable by the land acquisition policies set forth in and do all things necessary or proper to provide the services, payments and benefits provided in the Federal Uniform Relocation Act. [PL 1989, c. 40, §§1, 5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 597 (NEW). PL 1973, c. 625, §5 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 40, §§1,5 (AMD).

§903. Definitions and exclusion

Except where the context otherwise requires or as expressly set forth in this chapter, all terms used in this chapter shall have the same definitions as are set forth in the Federal Uniform Relocation Act. The term "State" shall include every agency, department and political subdivision of the State, but shall not include the Department of Transportation. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to alter or amend Title 23, chapter 3, subchapter VII, which does and shall continue to apply exclusively to state or state aid highway projects and other activities of and by the Department of Transportation. [PL 1989, c. 40, §§2, 5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 593, §22 (AMD). PL 1971, c. 597 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 40, §§2,5 (AMD).

§904. Limitations

Nothing in this chapter may be construed as creating in any condemnation proceeding brought under the power of eminent domain any element of value or of damage not in existence immediately prior to April 2, 1989. [PL 1989, c. 40, §§3, 5 (AMD).]

The requirement by the State to be guided, to the greatest extent practicable, by the policies set forth in the Federal Uniform Relocation Act shall create no rights or liabilities and shall not affect the validity of any property acquisitions by purchase or condemnation. [PL 1989, c. 40, §§3, 5 (AMD).]

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to require the State to provide services, payments or benefits which exceed in quantity or quality those which are necessary or proper for the State to provide in order for the State to receive federal financial assistance by complying with the obligations imposed or incumbent upon states under the Federal Uniform Relocation Act. [PL 1989, c. 40, §§3, 5 (AMD).]

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to limit the authority or eligibility of the State to receive federal financial assistance. [PL 1989, c. 40, §§3, 5 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1971, c. 597 (NEW). PL 1973, c. 625, §6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 40, §§3,5 (AMD).

§905. Guidelines; rules

The head of each department and agency subject to this chapter may issue guidelines and procedures and promulgate rules as necessary or appropriate to carry out this chapter. [PL 1989, c. 40, §§4, 5 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 40, §§4,5 (NEW).

CHAPTER 24

ALTERNATE RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

§951. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a policy for the treatment of persons displaced as a result of public use programs, funded in whole or in part by public entities, for persons to whom no assistance is available under federal law or any other provisions of state law. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).

§952. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

1. Displaced person. "Displaced person" means any individual or entity who moves from a dwelling or place of business as a result of the acquisition, in whole or in part, of any interest in the land or the structure on which or in which that dwelling or place of business is located for a public use project:

- A. By public entity; [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]
- B. As a result of a written order from a public entity to vacate the dwelling or place of business; or [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]
- C. By any individual or entity on behalf of, under agreement with or with funding from a public entity. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

This definition shall be construed so that persons displaced as a result of public action or public participation receive relocation benefits in cases where they are displaced as a result of an owner participation agreement or an acquisition carried out by a private individual or entity for or in connection with a public use project, where the public entity is otherwise empowered to acquire the property to carry out the public use. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

2. Public entity. "Public entity" includes the State, counties, municipalities, departments, agencies and any other political subdivisions of the State. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

3. Public use project. "Public use project" means a project developed with the assistance, cooperation, guidance or support of any public entity, the purpose of which is to provide facilities for the use of the public. It does not include any single business obtaining funding or security for private funding from the United States Small Business Administration. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).

§953. Offer of assistance

1. Written offer; terms. Within 14 days after the acquisition of real property by a public entity or any person covered by the terms of this chapter and not less than 30 days prior to the date upon which the dwelling or place of business must be vacated, the public entity acquiring the land or building,

ordering the dwelling or place of business vacated, or on whose behalf, under whose agreement or with whose funding the acquiring person is acting, shall make a payment to compensate any person or entity who will become displaced for estimated:

A. Actual reasonable expenses in moving the displaced person, the displaced person's family or the displaced person's business, farm operation or other personal property; [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §15 (COR).]

B. Actual direct losses of tangible personal property as a result of moving or discontinuing a business or farm operation, but not to exceed an amount equal to the reasonable expenses that would have been required to relocate such property, as determined by the department; and [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

C. Actual reasonable expenses in searching for a replacement business or farm. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

Within 14 days after the displaced person has moved, and upon presentation of documentation of items listed in paragraphs A, B and C, the same public entity shall pay to the displaced person any actual reasonable expenses and losses in excess of the estimated payment made previously. If the estimated payment exceeds the actual reasonable expenses and losses, the displaced person may retain the difference.

[RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §15 (COR).]

2. Moving expense allowance. Any displaced person eligible for payments under subsection 1, who is displaced from a dwelling and who elects not to accept the payments authorized by subsection 1, may receive a moving expense allowance, determined according to a schedule established by the department, not to exceed \$300, and a dislocation allowance of \$200.

[PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

3. Fixed payment. A displaced person eligible for payments under subsection 1 who is displaced from that person's place of business or from that person's farm operation and who elects not to accept the payment authorized by subsection 1 may receive a fixed payment in an amount equal to the average annual net earnings of the business or farm operation, except that such payment may not be less than \$2,500 nor more than \$10,000. In the case of a business, a payment may not be made under this subsection unless the department is satisfied that the business:

A. Cannot be relocated without a substantial loss of its existing patronage; and [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

B. Is not part of a commercial enterprise having at least one other establishment not being acquired by a public entity or individual, or private entity on behalf of, under agreement with or with funding from a public entity, that is engaged in the same or similar business. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §16 (COR).]

[RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §16 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §§15, 16 (COR).

§954. Ineligible persons

Persons who are qualified to receive relocation benefits under chapter 23 and the United States Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, Public Law 91-646, are not eligible for benefits under this chapter. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).

CHAPTER 25**GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS****SUBCHAPTER 1****STATEMENT OF PURPOSE****§1001. Statement of purpose**

It is essential under the American system of representative government that the people have faith and confidence in the integrity of the election process and the members of the Legislature. In order to strengthen this faith and confidence that the election process reflects the will of the people and that each Legislator considers and casts that Legislator's vote on the enactment of laws according to the best interests of the public and that Legislator's constituents, there is created an independent commission on governmental ethics and election practices to guard against corruption or undue influencing of the election process and against acts or the appearance of misconduct by Legislators. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §17 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §17 (COR).

§1002. Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices**1. Membership.**

[PL 2001, c. 470, §1 (AMD); MRSA T. 1 §1002, sub-§1, ¶F (RP).]

1-A. Membership. The Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, established by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 33 and referred to in this chapter as the "commission," consists of 5 members appointed as follows.

A. By December 1, 2001 and as needed after that date, the Senate caucus leaders and House caucus leaders jointly shall establish and advertise a 30-day period to allow members of the public and groups and organizations to propose qualified individuals to be nominated for appointment to the commission. [PL 2019, c. 635, §1 (AMD).]

B. By January 1, 2002 and as needed after that date, the Senate caucus leaders and House caucus leaders each shall present a list of 3 qualified individuals to the Governor for appointment of 4 members to the commission. The Senate caucus leaders and House caucus leaders jointly shall present a list of 3 qualified individuals to the Governor for appointment of a 5th member to the commission. [PL 2019, c. 635, §1 (AMD).]

C. By March 15, 2002, the Governor shall appoint the members of the commission selecting one member from each of the lists of nominees presented in accordance with paragraph A. These nominees are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal affairs and confirmation by the Legislature. No more than 2 commission members may be enrolled in the same party. [PL 2001, c. 470, §2 (NEW).]

D. Two initial appointees are appointed for one-year terms, 2 are appointed for 2-year terms and one is appointed for a 3-year term, according to a random lot drawing under the supervision of the Secretary of State. Subsequent appointees are appointed to serve 3-year terms. A person may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms, except that if a person is appointed to fill the unexpired portion of a term to fill a vacancy under paragraph F and that portion is less than 2 years, the person may serve 2 consecutive full terms thereafter. [PL 2019, c. 323, §1 (AMD).]

E. The commission members shall elect one member to serve as chair for at least a 2-year term. [PL 2001, c. 470, §2 (NEW).]

F. Upon a vacancy during an unexpired term, the term must be filled as provided in this paragraph for the unexpired portion of the term only. The nominee must be appointed by the Governor from a list of 3 qualified candidates provided by the Senate caucus leader or House caucus leader of the party from the body of the Legislature that suggested the appointee who created the vacancy. If the vacancy during an unexpired term was created by the commission member who was appointed from the list of candidates presented to the Governor by the Senate caucus leaders and House caucus leaders jointly, the nominee must be appointed from a list of 3 qualified candidates provided jointly by the Senate caucus leaders and House caucus leaders. If the list of 3 qualified candidates required by this paragraph to be presented to the Governor jointly by the Senate caucus leaders and House caucus leaders is not produced within 60 days after the vacancy is created, then each Senate caucus leader and House caucus leader shall present within the subsequent 15 days a separate list of 3 qualified candidates to the Governor, who shall appoint a candidate from these lists within 30 days of receiving the lists. Nominees appointed pursuant to this paragraph are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over election practices and legislative ethics and to confirmation by the Legislature. [PL 2019, c. 635, §1 (AMD).]

G. Upon a vacancy created by an expired term, the vacancy must be filled as provided in this paragraph. The nominee must be appointed by the Governor from a list of 3 qualified candidates provided by the Senate caucus leader or House caucus leader of the party from the body of the Legislature that suggested the appointee whose term expired. When a vacancy is created by an expired term of the commission member who was appointed from the list of candidates presented to the Governor by the Senate caucus leaders and House caucus leaders jointly, the nominee must be appointed from a list of 3 qualified candidates provided jointly by the Senate caucus leaders and House caucus leaders. If the list of 3 qualified candidates required by this paragraph to be presented to the Governor jointly by the Senate caucus leaders and House caucus leaders is not produced within 60 days after the vacancy is created, then each Senate caucus leader and House caucus leader shall present within the subsequent 15 days a separate list of 3 qualified candidates to the Governor, who shall appoint a candidate from these lists within 30 days of receiving the lists. Nominees appointed pursuant to this paragraph are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over election practices and legislative ethics and to confirmation by the Legislature. [PL 2019, c. 635, §1 (AMD).]

H. For the purposes of this subsection, "Senate caucus leader" has the same meaning as in Title 21-A, section 1053-C, subsection 1, paragraph C and "House caucus leader" has the same meaning as in Title 21-A, section 1053-C, subsection 1, paragraph A. [PL 2019, c. 635, §1 (AMD).]
[PL 2019, c. 635, §1 (AMD).]

2. Qualifications. The members of the commission must be persons of recognized judgment, probity and objectivity. A person may not be appointed to this commission who is a member of the Legislature or who was a member of the previous Legislature, who was a declared candidate for an elective county, state or federal office within 2 years prior to the appointment or who now holds an elective county, state or federal office. A person may not serve on the commission who is an officer, director, employee or primary decision maker of a party committee, political action committee or candidate committee authorized under Title 21-A, section 1013-A, subsection 1, paragraph B. [PL 2007, c. 571, §1 (AMD).]

2-A. Conflict of interest. This subsection governs conflicts of interest of members of the commission.

A. A member of the commission has a conflict of interest in a matter before the commission if the member has a business or close political relationship with a party to the matter. A close political

relationship exists when a member has significant past or ongoing involvement with a political committee or a candidate, as defined in Title 21-A, section 1, subsection 30 and subsection 5, respectively, or other organization involved in the matter, that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the member is unable to objectively consider the matter. A close political relationship is not created by making a contribution to a political committee, organization or candidate; party enrollment status; or mere membership in an organization involved in the matter. [PL 2007, c. 571, §2 (NEW).]

B. If members of the commission have a conflict of interest in a matter before the commission, the members shall recuse themselves from the matter and may not vote on or attempt to influence the outcome of the matter. Whether or not recusal is required under this paragraph, members of the commission shall consider recusing themselves from any matter that would give rise to an appearance of a conflict of interest. [PL 2007, c. 571, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 571, §2 (NEW).]

2-B. Annual disclosure statement. Each member shall file a disclosure statement with the executive director of the commission by February 15th of each year, which must include:

A. The names of and the positions held in all candidate committees, political action committees, ballot question committees and party committees of which the member or the member's spouse or domestic partner was an officer, director or primary decision maker or fund raiser during the previous calendar year; [PL 2007, c. 571, §3 (NEW).]

B. The names of and positions held in all nonprofit or commercial organizations of which the member or the member's spouse or domestic partner was an owner, officer, director or primary decision maker or fund raiser that, during the previous calendar year, made expenditures of more than \$1,500 to influence an election or employed a lobbyist who was required to register with the commission; and [PL 2007, c. 571, §3 (NEW).]

C. Any additional information that the commission determines appropriate. [PL 2007, c. 571, §3 (NEW).]

A member shall notify the executive director if the member becomes an officer, director, employee or primary decision maker or fund raiser of a party committee, political action committee, ballot question committee or candidate committee within 21 days of the event.

[PL 2007, c. 571, §3 (NEW).]

3. Oath. Each member, within 10 days of that member's appointment, shall take an oath of office to faithfully discharge the duties of a commissioner in the form prescribed by the Constitution. Such oath must be subscribed to by the commissioner taking it, certified by the officer before whom it is taken and immediately filed in the Office of the Secretary of State.

[RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §18 (COR).]

4. Legislative per diem. The members of the commission are entitled to receive legislative per diem according to Title 5, chapter 379.

[IB 1995, c. 1, §2 (AMD).]

5. Employees. The commission shall employ an executive director and such other assistance as may be necessary to carry out its duties. The commission also shall retain a general counsel or a computer analyst as an employee of the commission, based on the staffing needs of the executive director. If the commission employs a general counsel, the general counsel may not hold any other state office or otherwise be employed by the State. The commission shall select the executive director by an affirmative vote of at least 4 commission members.

[PL 2003, c. 381, §1 (AMD).]

6. Prohibited activities. A member of the commission may not engage in political fund-raising to promote the election or defeat of a candidate, passage or defeat of a ballot measure or endorse a

political candidate. This prohibition does not apply to fund-raising for campaigns or endorsement of candidates at the county or municipal level or out-of-state nonfederal elections.

[PL 2005, c. 271, §2 (NEW).]

7. Removal of members. A member of the commission may be removed by the Governor for inefficiency, willful neglect of duty, malfeasance in office, engaging in prohibited activities or failure to continually meet the qualifications set out by this section or to comply with the disclosure requirements, but only with the review and concurrence of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over election practices and legislative ethics upon hearing in executive session, or impeachment by the Legislature. Before removing a board member, the Governor shall notify the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the removal and the reasons for the removal.

[PL 2007, c. 571, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1983, c. 812, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 503, §B1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 86 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 880, §1 (AMD). IB 1995, c. 1, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 430, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 470, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 381, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 271, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 295, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 252, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 571, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 323, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 635, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §18 (COR).

§1003. Procedures, rules and regulations

1. Procedures, rules and regulations. The commission shall adopt such procedures, rules and regulations as may appear necessary for the orderly, prompt, fair and efficient carrying out of its duties, consistent with this chapter.

[PL 1979, c. 541, §4 (AMD).]

2. Records. Except as provided in section 1013, all records of the commission, including business records, reports made to or by the commission, findings of fact and opinions, must be made available to any interested member of the public who may wish to review them. Any member of the public may request copies of any record held by the commission that is available for public inspection. The commission shall furnish these copies upon payment of a fee covering the cost of reproducing them.

[PL 2007, c. 642, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 541, §A4 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 642, §1 (AMD).

§1004. Meetings

The commission shall meet on the call of the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate to perform the duties required of it or as specifically provided in this chapter. The commission shall also meet at other times at the call of the chair or at the call of a majority of the members, provided all members are notified of the time, place and purpose of the meeting at least 24 hours in advance. [PL 2001, c. 430, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 252, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 430, §2 (AMD).

§1005. Open meetings

Notwithstanding chapter 13 and except as provided in section 1013, subsection 3-A, all meetings, hearings or sessions of the commission are open to the general public unless, by an affirmative vote of at least 3 members, the commission requires the exclusion of the public. [PL 2007, c. 642, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 562, §D1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 562, §D11 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 430, §3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 642, §2 (AMD).

§1006. Assistance

The commission may call for the aid or assistance in the performance of its duties on the Attorney General, Secretary of State, Office of the State Auditor or any law enforcement agency in this State. When called upon, these agencies shall comply to the utmost of their ability. [PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW); PL 2013, c. 16, §10 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 16, §10 (REV).

§1007. Annual report

The commission shall submit to the Legislature and the public an annual report discussing its activities under this chapter and any changes it considers necessary or appropriate regarding ethical standards. [PL 1989, c. 561, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 561, §1 (AMD).

§1008. General duties

The general duties of the commission shall be: [PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW).]

1. Legislative ethics. To investigate and make advisory recommendations to the appropriate body of any apparent violations of legislative ethics;
[PL 2007, c. 642, §3 (AMD).]

2. Election practices. To administer and investigate any violations of the requirements for campaign reports and campaign financing, including the provisions of the Maine Clean Election Act and the Maine Clean Election Fund;
[PL 2001, c. 430, §4 (AMD).]

3. Ethics seminar. To conduct, in conjunction with the Attorney General and the Chair of the Legislative Council or their designees, an ethics seminar for Legislators after the general election and before the convening of the Legislature, in every even-numbered year. The Attorney General shall provide each Legislator with a bound compilation of the laws of this State pertaining to legislative ethics and conduct;
[IB 1995, c. 1, §4 (AMD).]

4. Lobbyist activities. To administer the lobbyist disclosure laws, Title 3, chapter 15, and enforce the waiting period required before former Legislators may engage in compensated lobbying as provided by section 1024;
[PL 2013, c. 129, §1 (AMD).]

5. Maine Clean Election Act and Maine Clean Election Fund. To administer and ensure the effective implementation of the Maine Clean Election Act and the Maine Clean Election Fund according to Title 21-A, chapter 14; and
[IB 1995, c. 1, §6 (NEW).]

6. Enhanced monitoring. To provide for enhanced monitoring and enforcement of election practices and the electronic submission of reports and computerized tracking of campaign, election and lobbying information under the commission's jurisdiction.
[PL 2005, c. 301, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 337, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 561, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 691, §§1-3 (AMD). IB 1995, c. 1, §§3-6 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 430, §4 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 20, §J1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 301, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 642, §3 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 129, §1 (AMD).

§1009. Recommendations to Legislature

Following a general election, the commission may solicit suggestions for improving campaign financing and reporting and the administration of the other areas within the commission's jurisdiction. The commission shall review the suggestions and may submit legislation within 90 days of the general election based on those suggestions or on proposals by individual members of the commission or its staff. [PL 2009, c. 208, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 301, §2 (NEW). PL 2009, c. 208, §1 (AMD).

SUBCHAPTER 2

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

§1011. Statement of purpose

The Maine Legislature enjoys a high reputation for progressive accomplishment. The vast majority of its members are public officers of integrity and dedication, seeking at all times to maintain high standards of ethical conduct. [PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW).]

The public interest is best served by attracting and retaining in the Legislature individuals of high caliber and attainment. The public interest will suffer if unduly stringent requirements deprive government "of the services of all but princes and paupers." [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §19 (COR).]

Membership in the Legislature is not a full-time occupation and is not compensated on that basis; moreover, it is measured in 2-year terms, requiring each member to recognize and contemplate that the election of that member will not provide that member with any career tenure. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §20 (COR).]

Most Legislators must look to income from private sources, not their public salaries, for their sustenance and support for their families; moreover, they must plan for the day when they must return to private employment, business or their professions. [PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW).]

The increasing complexity of government at all levels, with broader intervention into private affairs, makes conflicts of interest almost inevitable for all part-time public officials, and particularly for Legislators who must cast their votes on measures affecting the lives of almost every citizen or resident of the State. The adoption of broader standards of ethics for Legislators does not impugn either their integrity or their dedication; rather it recognizes the increasing complexity of government and private life and will provide them with helpful advice and guidance when confronted with unprecedented or difficult problems in that gray area involving action which is neither clearly right nor clearly wrong. [PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW).]

If public confidence in government is to be maintained and enhanced, it is not enough that public officers avoid acts of misconduct. They must also scrupulously avoid acts which may create an appearance of misconduct. [PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW).]

The Legislature cannot legislate morals and the resolution of ethical problems must indeed rest largely in the individual conscience. The Legislature may and should, however, define ethical standards, as most professions have done, to chart the areas of real or apparent impropriety. [PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §§19, 20 (COR).

§1012. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1989, c. 561, §4 (RPR).]

1. Close economic association. "Close economic association" means the employers, employees, partners or clients of the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family; corporations in which the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family is an officer, director or agent or owns 10% or more of the outstanding capital stock; a business which is a significant unsecured creditor of the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family; or a business of which the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family is a significant unsecured creditor. [PL 1989, c. 561, §4 (RPR).]

1-A. Associated organization. "Associated organization" means any organization in which a Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family is a managerial employee, director, officer or trustee or owns or controls, directly or indirectly, and severally or in the aggregate, at least 10% of the outstanding equity. [PL 2011, c. 634, §1 (AMD).]

2. Commission. "Commission" means the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. [PL 1989, c. 561, §4 (RPR).]

2-A. Domestic partner.
[PL 2021, c. 567, §2 (RP).]

3. Employee. "Employee" means a person in any employment position, including public or private employment, employment with a nonprofit, religious, charitable or educational organization, or any other compensated service under an expressed, implied, oral or written contract for hire, but does not include a self-employed person. [PL 1989, c. 561, §4 (RPR).]

4. Gift. "Gift" means anything of value, including forgiveness of an obligation or debt, given to a person without that person providing equal or greater consideration to the giver. "Gift" does not include:

A. Gifts received from a single source during the reporting period with an aggregate value of \$300 or less; [PL 1989, c. 561, §4 (NEW).]

B. A bequest or other form of inheritance; [PL 1995, c. 33, §1 (AMD).]

C. A gift received from a relative or from an individual on the basis of a personal friendship as long as that individual is not a registered lobbyist or lobbyist associate under Title 3, section 313, unless the Legislator has reason to believe that the gift was provided because of the Legislator's official position and not because of a personal friendship; [PL 2009, c. 258, §1 (AMD).]

D. A subscription to a newspaper, news magazine or other news publication; [PL 2009, c. 258, §1 (AMD).]

E. Legal services provided in a matter of legislative ethics; [PL 2009, c. 258, §1 (AMD).]

F. A meal, if the meal is a prayer breakfast or a meal served during a meeting to establish a prayer breakfast; or [PL 2009, c. 258, §1 (NEW).]

G. A meal, if the meal is provided by industry or special interest organizations as part of the informational program presented to a group of public servants. [PL 2009, c. 258, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 258, §1 (AMD).]

5. Honorarium. "Honorarium" means a payment of money or anything with a monetary resale value to a Legislator for an appearance or a speech by the Legislator. Honorarium does not include reimbursement for actual and necessary travel expenses for an appearance or speech. Honorarium does not include a payment for an appearance or a speech that is unrelated to the person's official capacity or duties as a member of the Legislature.

[PL 1989, c. 561, §4 (NEW).]

6. Immediate family. "Immediate family" means a Legislator's spouse, domestic partner or dependent children.

[PL 2009, c. 208, §3 (AMD).]

7. Income. "Income" means economic gain to a person from any source, including, but not limited to, compensation for services, including fees, commissions and payments in kind; gross income derived from business; gross income derived from dealings in property, rents and royalties; gross income from investments including interest, capital gains and dividends; annuities; income from life insurance and endowment contracts; pensions; income from discharge of indebtedness; distributions from a partnership or limited liability company; gross income from an interest in an estate or trust; prizes; and grants, but does not include gifts or honoraria. Income received in kind includes, but is not limited to, the transfer of property and options to buy or lease, and stock certificates. "Income" does not include alimony and separate maintenance payments, child support payments or campaign contributions accepted for state or federal office or funds or other property held in trust for another, including but not limited to money to be spent on behalf of a client for payment of a licensing or filing fee.

A. [PL 2011, c. 634, §2 (RP).]

B. [PL 2011, c. 634, §2 (RP).]

[PL 2011, c. 634, §2 (AMD).]

7-A. Managerial employee. "Managerial employee" means an employee of an organization whose position requires substantial control over the organization's decision making, business operations, financial management or contracting and procurement activities. For the purposes of this subsection, financial management does not include tasks that are considered clerical in nature.

[PL 2011, c. 634, §3 (NEW).]

8. Relative. "Relative" means an individual who is related to the Legislator or the Legislator's spouse or the Legislator's domestic partner as a parent; child; sibling; sibling of a parent; sibling of a parent once removed; first cousin; child of a sibling or of a spouse's or domestic partner's sibling; spouse; domestic partner; grandparent; grandchild; parent-in-law; spouse or domestic partner of a child; sibling of a spouse or domestic partner; stepparent; stepchild; stepsibling; and half-sibling and includes the betrothed of the Legislator.

[RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §21 (COR).]

8-A. Reportable liability. "Reportable liability" means any unsecured loan of \$3,000 or more received from a person who is not a relative. "Reportable liability" does not include:

A. A credit card liability; [PL 2011, c. 634, §5 (NEW).]

B. An educational loan made or guaranteed by a governmental entity, educational institution or nonprofit organization; or [PL 2011, c. 634, §5 (NEW).]

C. A loan made from a state or federally regulated financial institution for business purposes. [PL 2011, c. 634, §5 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 634, §5 (NEW).]

9. Self-employed. "Self-employed" means that the person qualifies as an independent contractor under Title 39-A, section 102, subsection 13-A.

[PL 2011, c. 643, §1 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 643, §14 (AFF).]

10. Violation of legislative ethics. "Violation of legislative ethics" means a violation of the prohibitions in section 1014 or 1015-A.

[PL 2019, c. 534, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 561, §4 (RPR). PL 1991, c. 885, §E1 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 885, §E47 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 33, §§1,2 (AMD). RR 2001, c. 1, §6 (COR). PL 2001, c. 430, §5 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 268, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 642, §§4, 5 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 208, §§2-4 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 258, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 634, §§1-5 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 643, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 643, §14 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 534, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 567, §2 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §21 (COR).

§1013. Authority; procedures

1. Authority. The commission has authority:

A. To issue, on request of any Legislator on an issue involving that Legislator, or on its own motion, written advisory opinions and guidance on problems or questions involving possible violations of legislative ethics; [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

B. To investigate complaints alleging a violation of legislative ethics against any Legislator, to investigate a possible violation of legislative ethics upon the commission's own motion, to hold hearings on an alleged or possible violation if the commission determines it is appropriate and to issue findings of fact together with its opinion; and [PL 2011, c. 471, §1 (AMD).]

C. To administer the disclosure of sources of income by Legislators as required by this subchapter. [PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2011, c. 471, §1 (AMD).]

2. Procedure. The following procedures apply.

A. Requests for advisory opinions by members of the Legislature must be filed with the commission in writing and signed by the Legislator requesting the opinion and must contain such supporting data as the commission requires. Commission staff shall inform a Legislator upon that Legislator's request for an advisory opinion that written opinions issued by the commission are public and are submitted to the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate and entered into the legislative record. When preparing an advisory opinion on its own motion, the commission shall notify the Legislator concerned and allow the Legislator to provide additional information to the commission. In preparing an advisory opinion, either upon request or on its own motion, the commission may make such an investigation as it determines necessary. A copy of the commission's advisory opinion must be sent to the Legislator concerned and to the presiding officer of the legislative body of which the Legislator is a member. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

B. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (RP).]

B-1. Any person may file a complaint against a Legislator alleging a violation of legislative ethics only as described in sections 1014 and 1015-A. The complaint must be filed in writing and signed under oath and must specify the facts of the alleged violation citing the specific provisions of sections 1014 and 1015-A that are alleged to have been violated, the approximate date of the alleged violation and such other information as the commission requires. A complainant shall agree in writing not to disclose any information about the complaint during the time the commission is determining whether or not to pursue the complaint or during the investigation of a complaint. A complaint that does not meet the criteria of this paragraph is considered incomplete and will not be forwarded to the commission.

(1) The Legislator against whom a complaint is filed must immediately be given a copy of the complaint and the name of the complainant. Before deciding whether to conduct an investigation or to hold any hearings, the commission shall afford the Legislator an opportunity to answer the complaint in writing and in person to the commission. The commission staff may gather preliminary factual information that will assist the commission in deciding whether to conduct a full investigation or to hold hearings.

(2) The commission shall consider only complaints against Legislators in office at the time of the filing of the complaint and only complaints relating to activity that occurred or was ongoing within 2 years of the complaint. Upon a majority vote of the commission, the commission shall conduct an investigation and hold hearings as it determines necessary.

(3) The commission shall issue its findings of fact together with its opinion regarding the alleged violation of legislative ethics to the legislative body of which the Legislator concerned is a member. That legislative body may take whatever action it determines appropriate, in accordance with the Constitution of Maine.

(4) If the commission determines that a Legislator has potentially violated professional standards set by a licensing board, its opinion and such other information as may be appropriate must be referred to the licensing board that oversees the Legislator's professional conduct. [PL 2019, c. 534, §2 (AMD).]

B-2. If the commission receives information other than through a complaint suggesting that a Legislator may have committed a violation of legislative ethics, the commission may commence an investigation or conduct hearings when there is probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred. The commission may consider only activities by a Legislator in office at the time of the investigation that occurred or were ongoing within 2 years of the investigation. The commission shall provide the Legislator with written notice of the possible violation and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with the requirements of paragraph B-1. The commission's consideration of the possible violation is subject to the confidentiality provisions of subsection 3-A. [PL 2011, c. 471, §3 (NEW).]

C. When the conduct of a particular Legislator is under inquiry and a hearing is to be held, the Legislator must be given written notification of the time and place at which the hearing is to be held. Such notification must be given not less than 10 days prior to the date set for the hearing. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

D. The commission has authority, through its chair or any member designated by the chair, to administer oaths, subpoena witnesses and compel the production of books, records, papers, documents, correspondence and other material and records the commission determines relevant. The State, its agencies and instrumentalities shall furnish to the commission any information, records or documents the commission designates as being necessary for the exercise of its functions and duties. In the case of refusal of any person to obey an order or subpoena of the commission, the Superior Court, upon application of the commission, has jurisdiction and authority to require compliance with the order or subpoena. Any failure of any person to obey an order of the Superior Court may be punished by that court as contempt thereof. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

E. The commission shall adopt rules consistent with due process for the conduct of investigations and hearings under this subchapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are major substantive rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

The commission is not bound by the strict rules of evidence, but its findings and opinions must be based upon competent and substantial evidence. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

E-1. The commission may permit the complainant to make a presentation to the commission as part of its consideration whether to conduct an investigation or public hearing. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (NEW).]

F. If the commission concludes that it appears that a Legislator has violated a criminal law, a copy of its findings of fact, its opinion and such other information as may be appropriate must be referred to the Attorney General. Any determination by the commission or by a legislative body that a violation of legislative ethics has occurred does not preclude any criminal action relating to the violation that may be brought against the Legislator. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

G. If the commission determines that a complaint filed under oath is frivolous or was filed in bad faith or if the complainant fails to appear at the hearing without being excused by the commission, the commission may order the complainant to pay to the Legislator against whom the complaint has been filed that Legislator's costs of investigation and defense, including any reasonable attorney's fees. This order is considered a final agency action, and the complainant may appeal the order pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. If the commission determines that the complaint was filed in bad faith, the commission shall refer the case to the Attorney General for investigation.

Such an order does not preclude any other remedy available to the Legislator against whom the complaint has been filed, including, but not limited to, an action brought in Superior Court against the complainant for damages to the Legislator's reputation. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

H. The commission shall file with the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate a copy of written advisory opinions and guidance issued by the commission that were formally requested by a Legislator and that were considered by the commission at a public meeting, with such deletions and changes as the commission considers necessary to protect the identity of the person seeking the opinions or others. The Clerk of the House shall keep a copy of such opinions and guidance in a special binder and shall finally publish them in the Legislative Record. The commission may exempt an opinion or a part of an opinion from release, publication or inspection if it considers such action appropriate for the protection of 3rd parties and makes available to the public an explanatory statement to that effect. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

I. A copy of the commission's findings of fact and opinions regarding complaints against Legislators must also be filed with the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate. The Clerk of the House shall keep them in a special binder and shall finally publish them in the Legislative Record. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

J. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (RP).]

K. When a Legislator has a question or problem of an emergency nature about a possible violation of legislative ethics or an issue involving that Legislator that arises during the course of legislative action, the Legislator may request an advisory opinion from the presiding officer of the legislative body of which the Legislator is a member. The presiding officer may issue an advisory opinion. An advisory opinion issued by the presiding officer must be in accordance with the principles of this subchapter, be in writing and be reported to the commission. The commission may then issue a further opinion on the matter. The presiding officer may refer such a question or problem directly to the commission, which shall meet as soon as possible to consider the question or problem. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD).]

L. The commission shall make reasonable efforts to resolve a complaint within 90 days of its filing. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (NEW).]
[PL 2019, c. 534, §2 (AMD).]

3. Confidentiality.

[PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (RP).]

3-A. Confidentiality of records and proceedings relating to screening complaints alleging a violation of legislative ethics. Notwithstanding chapter 13, a complaint alleging a violation of legislative ethics is confidential and is not a public record until after the commission has voted pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph B-1 to pursue the complaint, and a commission proceeding to determine whether to pursue a complaint must be conducted in executive session. If the commission does not vote to pursue the complaint, the complaint and records relating to the investigation of that complaint remain confidential and are not public records unless the Legislator against whom the complaint is made submits a written request that the complaint and all accompanying materials be made public. This subsection does not prohibit a complainant from disclosing information that the complainant provided to the commission as part of the complaint or investigation once the commission has determined not to pursue the complaint or the investigation of a complaint is complete. This subsection does not prevent the commission from including general information about complaints in any report to the Legislature. Any person who knowingly breaches the confidentiality of a complaint investigation commits a Class D crime. This subsection does not prevent commission staff from disclosing information to a person from whom the commission is seeking information or evidence relevant to the complaint that is necessary to investigate the complaint or prevent the complainant or the Legislator against whom the complaint is made from discussing the complaint with an attorney or other person assisting them with the complaint. The commission or commission staff shall inform any person with whom they communicate of the requirement to keep any information regarding the complaint investigation confidential.

[PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (NEW).]

4. Confidentiality of records other than complaints. Commission records other than complaints are governed by this subsection.

A. Investigative records relating to complaints that the commission has voted to pursue are confidential unless they are provided to commission members or otherwise distributed at a public hearing of the commission. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (NEW).]

B. Legislators' statements of sources of income are public records. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (NEW).]

C. Findings of fact and recommendations of the commission on complaints alleging violation of legislative ethics are public records. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (NEW).]

D. Advisory opinions of the commission and requests for advisory opinions from the commission are public records, except as provided in subsection 2, paragraph H. [PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (NEW).]

5. Prohibited communications. Communications concerning a complaint filed under this section between commission members and a complainant or between commission members and the subject of a complaint are prohibited until after the commission has voted not to pursue a complaint or the commission has taken final action on the complaint.

[PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 252, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 561, §§5,6 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 642, §6 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 471, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 534, §2 (AMD).

§1014. Violations of legislative ethics

1. Situations involving conflict of interest. A Legislator engages in a violation of legislative ethics if that Legislator votes on a question in connection with a conflict of interest in committee or in either body of the Legislature or attempts to influence the outcome of that question unless a presiding officer in accordance with the Joint Rules of the Legislature requires a Legislator to vote or advises the

Legislator that there is no conflict in accordance with section 1013, subsection 2, paragraph K. A conflict of interest includes:

A. When a Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family has or acquires a direct substantial personal financial interest, distinct from that of the general public, in an enterprise that would be financially benefited by proposed legislation, or derives a direct substantial personal financial benefit from close economic association with a person known by the Legislator to have a direct financial interest in an enterprise affected by proposed legislation; [PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (AMD).]

B. When a Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family accepts gifts, other than campaign contributions duly recorded as required by law, from persons affected by legislation or who have an interest in an entity affected by proposed legislation and the Legislator knows or reasonably should know that the purpose of the donor in making the gift is to influence the Legislator in the performance of the Legislator's official duties or vote or is intended as a reward for action on the Legislator's part; [PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (AMD).]

C. Receiving compensation or reimbursement not authorized by law for services, advice or assistance as a Legislator; [PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (AMD).]

D. Appearing for, representing or advocating on behalf of another before the Legislature, unless without compensation and for the benefit of a citizen; [PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (AMD).]

E. When a Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family accepts or engages in employment that could impair the Legislator's judgment, or when the Legislator knows that there is a substantial possibility that an opportunity for employment is being afforded the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family with intent to influence the performance of the Legislator's official duties, or when the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family stands to derive a personal private gain or loss from employment, because of legislative action, distinct from the gain or losses of other employees or the general community; and [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §22 (COR).]

F. When a Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family has an interest in legislation relating to a profession, trade, business or employment in which the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family is engaged and the benefit derived by the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family is unique and distinct from that of the general public or persons engaged in similar professions, trades, businesses or employment. [PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (AMD).] [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §22 (COR).]

2. Undue influence.

[PL 2009, c. 258, §2 (RP).]

2-A. Undue influence. It is a violation of legislative ethics for a Legislator to engage in conduct that constitutes the exertion of undue influence, including, but not limited to:

A. Appearing for, representing or advocating for another person in a matter before a state agency or authority, for compensation other than compensation as a Legislator, if the Legislator makes reference to that Legislator's legislative capacity, communicates with the agency or authority on legislative stationery or makes threats or implications relating to legislative action; [PL 2009, c. 258, §3 (NEW).]

B. Appearing for, representing or advocating for another person in a matter before a state agency or authority if the Legislator oversees the policies of the agency or authority as a result of the Legislator's committee responsibilities, unless:

- (1) The appearance, representation or advocacy is provided without compensation and for the benefit of a constituent;

(2) The Legislator is engaged in the conduct of the Legislator's profession and is in good standing with a licensing board, if any, that oversees the Legislator's profession;

(3) The appearance, representation or advocacy is provided before a court or office of the judicial branch; or

(4) The representation consists of filing records or reports or performing other routine tasks that do not involve the exercise of discretion on the part of the agency or authority; and [PL 2009, c. 258, §3 (NEW).]

C. Representing or assisting another person in the sale of goods or services to the State, a state agency or a state authority, unless the transaction occurs after public notice and competitive bidding. [PL 2009, c. 258, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2009, c. 258, §3 (NEW).]

3. Abuse of office or position. It is a violation of legislative ethics for a Legislator to engage in conduct that constitutes an abuse of office or position, including but not limited to:

A. When a Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family has a direct financial interest or an interest through a close economic associate in a contract for goods or services with the State, a state agency or state authority, unless the contract is awarded through competitive bidding or is exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to state purchasing laws or the payment provisions are based on uniform rates established by the State, a state agency, a state authority or other governmental entity; [PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (AMD).]

B. Granting or obtaining special privilege, exemption or preferential treatment to or for oneself or another, which privilege, exemption or treatment is not readily available to members of the general community or class to which the beneficiary belongs; and [PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (AMD).]

C. Use or disclosure of confidential information obtained because of office or position for the benefit of self or another. [PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (AMD).]

4. Contract with state governmental agency. It is a violation of legislative ethics for a Legislator or an associated organization to enter with a state agency into any contract that is to be paid in whole or in part out of governmental funds unless the contract has been awarded through a process of public notice and competitive bidding or is exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to state purchasing laws.

[PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 642, §7 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 258, §§2, 3 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §22 (COR).

§1015. Prohibited campaign contributions and solicitations

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 561, §7 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 529, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 273, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 648, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 268, §2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 301, §3 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 279, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 642, §8 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 286, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 534, §3 (RP).

§1015-A. Campaign contributions and solicitations prohibited

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Contribution" has the same meaning as in Title 21-A, section 1012, subsection 2 and includes seed money contributions as defined in Title 21-A, section 1122, subsection 9, and, with respect to political action committees and ballot question committees, includes contributions as defined in Title 21-A, section 1052, subsection 3. "Contribution" does not include qualifying contributions as defined in Title 21-A, section 1122, subsection 7. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

B. "Employer" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 5. "Employer" does not include a lobbying firm. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

C. "Legislative session" means the period of time after the convening of the Legislature and before final adjournment. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

D. "Lobbying firm" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 9-A. [PL 2019, c. 587, §1 (RPR); PL 2019, c. 587, §18 (AFF).]

E. "Lobbyist" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 10. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

F. "Lobbyist associate" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 10-A. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 587, §1 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 587, §18 (AFF).]

2. Campaign contributions and solicitations prohibited during legislative session. The following provisions prohibit certain contributions and solicitations and offers of contributions during a legislative session.

A. The Governor, a member of the Legislature, a constitutional officer or the staff or agent of these officials may not intentionally solicit or accept a contribution from a lobbyist, lobbyist associate, employer of a lobbyist or lobbying firm during a legislative session. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

B. A lobbyist, lobbyist associate, employer of a lobbyist or lobbying firm may not intentionally give, offer or promise a contribution to the Governor, a member of the Legislature, a constitutional officer or the staff or agent of these officials during a legislative session. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

C. The prohibitions in paragraphs A and B apply to contributions directly and indirectly solicited or accepted by or given, offered and promised to a political action committee, ballot question committee or party committee of which the Governor, a member of the Legislature, a constitutional officer or the staff or agent of these officials is a treasurer, officer or primary fund-raiser or decision maker. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

D. The prohibitions in paragraphs A and B do not apply to the following:

(1) The solicitation or acceptance of a contribution from or the offer or promise of a contribution by a lobbyist, lobbyist associate, employer of a lobbyist or lobbying firm that is not the property of that lobbyist, lobbyist associate, employer of a lobbyist or lobbying firm;

(2) The solicitation or acceptance of a contribution from or the offer or promise of a contribution by an employer of a lobbyist or lobbying firm related to a special election to fill a vacancy from the time of announcement of the election until the election; or

(3) The solicitation or acceptance of a contribution from or the offer or promise of a contribution by a lobbyist or lobbyist associate related to a special election to fill a vacancy from the time of announcement of the election until the election if the lobbyist or lobbyist associate is eligible to vote or will be eligible to vote on the day of the election in the district where the special election will appear on the ballot. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

3. Campaign contributions and solicitations prohibited when Legislature not in legislative session. The following provisions prohibit certain contributions and solicitations and offers of contributions when the Legislature is not in legislative session.

A. When the Legislature is not in legislative session, the Governor, a member of the Legislature or the staff or agent of these officials may not intentionally solicit or accept a contribution from a lobbyist or lobbyist associate unless the lobbyist or lobbyist associate is eligible to vote or will be eligible to vote on the day of the election in a district where the Governor or member of the Legislature will appear on the ballot. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

B. When the Legislature is not in legislative session, a lobbyist or lobbyist associate may not intentionally give, offer or promise a contribution to the Governor, a member of the Legislature or the staff or agent of these officials unless the lobbyist or lobbyist associate is eligible to vote or will be eligible to vote on the day of the election in a district where the Governor or member of the Legislature will appear on the ballot. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

C. The prohibitions in paragraphs A and B do not apply to the solicitation or acceptance of a contribution from or the offer or promise of a contribution by a lobbyist or lobbyist associate that is not the property of that lobbyist or lobbyist associate. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

D. The prohibitions in paragraphs A and B do not apply to the solicitation or acceptance of a contribution from or the offer or promise of a contribution by an employer of a lobbyist or a lobbying firm. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

4. Campaign contributions and solicitations prohibited at all times. The following provisions prohibit certain contributions and solicitations and offers of contributions at all times, regardless of whether the Legislature is in legislative session.

A. A gubernatorial or legislative candidate who is not the Governor or a member of the Legislature, or the staff or agent of a gubernatorial or legislative candidate, may not intentionally solicit or accept a contribution from a lobbyist or lobbyist associate unless the lobbyist or lobbyist associate is eligible to vote or will be eligible to vote on the day of the election in a district where the gubernatorial or legislative candidate will appear on the ballot. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

B. A lobbyist or lobbyist associate may not intentionally give, offer or promise a contribution to a gubernatorial or legislative candidate who is not the Governor or a member of the Legislature, or the staff or agent of a gubernatorial or legislative candidate, unless the lobbyist or lobbyist associate is eligible to vote or will be eligible to vote on the day of the election in a district where the gubernatorial or legislative candidate will appear on the ballot. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

C. The prohibitions in paragraphs A and B do not apply to the solicitation or acceptance of a contribution from or the offer or promise of a contribution by a lobbyist or lobbyist associate that is not the property of that lobbyist or lobbyist associate. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

D. The prohibitions in paragraphs A and B do not apply to the solicitation or acceptance of a contribution from or the offer or promise of a contribution by an employer of a lobbyist or lobbying firm. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

5. Exceptions. This section does not prohibit any of the following.

A. The solicitation, acceptance, offer or gift of money or anything of value for bona fide social events hosted for nonpartisan, charitable purposes. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

B. The solicitation, acceptance, offer or promise of contributions to a member of the Legislature supporting that member's campaign for federal office. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

C. The attendance of the Governor, a member of the Legislature, a constitutional officer, a gubernatorial or legislative candidate or the staff or agent of these persons at fund-raising events held by a municipal, county, state or national political party organized pursuant to Title 21-A, chapter 5, nor the advertisement of the expected presence of any such person at any such event, as long as any such person has no involvement in soliciting attendance at the event and all proceeds are paid directly to the political party organization hosting the event or a nonprofit charitable organization. [PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

6. Violations. The commission may undertake investigations to determine whether any person has violated this section. A person who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation, payable to the State and recoverable in a civil action. A contribution accepted in violation of this section must be returned to the contributor.

[PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2019, c. 534, §4 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 587, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 587, §18 (AFF).

§1016. Statement of sources of income

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 561, §8 (RP).

§1016-A. Disclosure of specific sources of income

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 561, §9 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 608, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 734 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 75, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 704, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 634, §6 (RP).

§1016-B. Disclosure of reportable liabilities

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 561, §10 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 331, §1 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 634, §7 (RP).

§1016-C. Reports by legislative candidates

A candidate, as defined in Title 21-A, section 1, subsection 5, for the Legislature who is not required to file a report under section 1016-G shall file a report containing the same information required of Legislators under section 1016-G no later than 5 p.m. on August 15th preceding the general election unless the candidate withdraws from the election in accordance with Title 21-A, section 374-A by that date. A candidate shall file statements electronically as is required of Legislators under section 1016-G, subsection 5. If the candidate fails to file the statement by August 15th, the commission may assess penalties in accordance with section 1016-G, subsection 3. [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. A, §1 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1991, c. 880, §2 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 471, §4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 634, §8 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 132, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 324, §1 (AMD). RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. A, §1 (COR).

§1016-D. Disclosure of bids on government contracts

When a Legislator or associated organization bids on a contract with a state governmental agency, the Legislator or associated organization shall file a statement with the commission no later than 5:00

p.m. on the day the bid is submitted that discloses the subject of the bid and the names of the Legislator, associated organization and state governmental agency as appropriate. The bid disclosure statement filed under this section must be on a form prescribed by the commission and is a public record as defined in section 402. [PL 2003, c. 268, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 268, §3 (NEW).

§1016-E. Disclosure of interests

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 704, §2 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 634, §9 (RP).

§1016-F. Internet disclosure

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 704, §3 (NEW). PL 2011, c. 634, §10 (RP).

§1016-G. Disclosure of specific sources of income, interests and reportable liabilities

Each Legislator shall annually file with the commission a statement identifying the sources of income received, positions held and reportable liabilities incurred during the preceding calendar year by the Legislator or members of the Legislator's immediate family. A Legislator who has completed service in the Legislature shall file the statement within 45 days of the Legislator's last day of service to disclose the sources of income in the Legislator's final calendar year of service. [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]

1. Content of statement. The name and, where applicable, the job title of the individual earning or receiving the income must be disclosed, unless otherwise noted. Each source of income must be identified by name, address and principal type of economic or business activity. If disclosure of this type is prohibited by statute, rule or an established code of professional ethics, it is sufficient for the Legislator to specify the principal type of economic or business activity from which the income is derived.

The statement must identify:

- A. If the Legislator is an employee of another person, firm, corporation, association or organization that has provided the Legislator with compensation of \$2,000 or more, the name and address of the employer. The Legislator shall identify the title and position held by the Legislator; [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
- B. If the Legislator is self-employed, the name and address of the Legislator's business and each source of income derived from self-employment that represents more than 10% of the Legislator's gross income from self-employment or \$2,000, whichever is greater; [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
- C. The name, address and principal economic or business activity of any corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business in which the Legislator or members of the Legislator's immediate family own or control, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the outstanding equity, whether individually or in the aggregate, that has received revenue of \$2,000 or more; [PL 2013, c. 401, §1 (AMD).]
- D. Each source of income of \$2,000 or more the Legislator derived from providing services as an attorney, the major areas of law practiced by the Legislator and, if associated with a law firm, the major areas of practice of the firm; [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]

- E. Each source of income of \$2,000 or more received by the Legislator and a description of the nature of the income, such as rental income, dividend income and capital gains; [PL 2013, c. 401, §1 (AMD).]
- F. The specific source of each gift received by the Legislator; [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
- G. Each source of income of \$2,000 or more received by any member of the immediate family of the Legislator, except that the Legislator is not required to identify the names of dependent children. If the member of the Legislator's immediate family received income of \$2,000 or more in compensation, the Legislator shall identify the source of the compensation, the type of the economic activity and the title of the position held by the immediate family member; [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
- H. Each source of honoraria of \$2,000 or more that the Legislator accepted; [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
- I. Each executive branch agency before which the Legislator or any immediate family member has represented or assisted others for compensation; [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
- J. Each state governmental agency, board or commission to which the Legislator, a member of the Legislator's immediate family or an associated organization has sold, rented or leased goods or services with a value of \$10,000 or more during the preceding calendar year and a description of the goods or services sold, rented or leased; [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
- K. Each party as defined in Title 21-A, section 1, subsection 28, including a party committee, and each organization that is required under Title 21-A, chapter 13 to register with the commission as a political action committee or ballot question committee for which the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family is a treasurer, principal officer or principal fund-raiser or decision maker; [PL 2013, c. 401, §1 (AMD).]
- L. Any offices, trusteeships, directorships or positions of any nature, whether compensated or uncompensated, held by the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family with any for-profit or nonprofit firm, corporation, association, limited liability company, partnership or business. For the purposes of this paragraph, service as a clerk of a corporation or as a registered agent authorized to receive service of any process, notice or other demand for a business entity is not considered a position with the corporation or business entity; and [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
- M. All reportable liabilities incurred by the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family during the reporting period. [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
[PL 2013, c. 401, §1 (AMD).]

2. Time for filing. The following provisions govern the time for filing statements.

- A. Each Legislator shall file with the commission by 5:00 p.m. on February 15th of each year on the form provided by the commission a statement of the sources of income, interests and reportable liabilities for the preceding calendar year required by subsection 1. Prior to the end of the first week in January of each year, the commission shall deliver a form to each Senator and member of the House of Representatives. [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]
- B. A Legislator shall file an updated statement concerning the current calendar year if the income, reportable liabilities or positions of the Legislator or an immediate family member, except for dependent children, substantially change from those disclosed in the Legislator's most recent statement. Substantial changes include, but are not limited to, a new employer that has paid the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family \$2,000 or more during the current year, another source that has provided the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family, excluding dependent children, with income that totals \$2,000 or more during the current

year or the acceptance of a new position with a for-profit or nonprofit firm that is reportable under subsection 1, paragraph L. The Legislator shall file the updated statement within 30 days of the substantial change in income, reportable liabilities or positions. [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).] [PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]

3. Penalties. Penalties for violations of this section are as follows.

A. Failing to file a statement within 15 days of having been notified by the commission is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$250 for a Legislator or \$100 for a candidate payable to the commission. A statement is not considered filed unless it substantially conforms to the requirements of this subchapter and is properly signed. The commission shall determine whether a statement substantially conforms to the requirements of this subchapter. [PL 2023, c. 324, §2 (AMD).]

B. The intentional filing of a false statement is a Class E crime. If the commission concludes that it appears that a Legislator has willfully filed a false statement, it shall refer its findings of fact to the Attorney General. If the commission determines that a Legislator has willfully failed to file a statement required by this subchapter or has willfully filed a false statement, the Legislator is presumed to have a conflict of interest on every question. [PL 2019, c. 534, §5 (AMD).]

Within 3 business days of a filing deadline, the commission shall mail a notice to a Legislator or candidate who has failed to file a statement required under this subchapter. If a Legislator or candidate does not file the statement within 15 days of the notice, the commission shall mail a notice of a preliminary penalty of \$250 for a Legislator or \$100 for a candidate pursuant to paragraph A. The Legislator or candidate may request a waiver of the penalty within 15 days of the penalty notice. If no request is made, the preliminary penalty of \$250 for a Legislator or \$100 for a candidate is final. If the Legislator or candidate requests a waiver, the commission shall consider the request at its next meeting for a determination of the final penalty, if any. The commission staff shall confirm a final penalty in a written determination to the Legislator or candidate who did not file the statement on time. The commission's determination may be appealed to the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7 and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80C. Penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection may be enforced in accordance with Title 21-A, section 1004-B.

4. Rules, procedures and forms. The commission may adopt or amend rules to specify the reportable categories or types and the procedures and forms for reporting and to administer this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW).]

5. Public record. Statements filed under this section are public records. The commission shall provide a means for Legislators to file statements in an electronic format that must immediately place the statements on a publicly accessible website. Legislators shall file statements required by this section using the electronic format prescribed by the commission. If a Legislator can attest to an inability to access or use the electronic filing format, the commission may provide assistance to the Legislator to ensure proper and timely placement of the required statements on the publicly accessible website.

[PL 2013, c. 401, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2011, c. 634, §11 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 401, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 534, §5 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 324, §2 (AMD).

§1017. Form; contents

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 252, §3 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 698, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 561, §11 (RP).

§1017-A. Civil penalties; late and incomplete statements; failure to file

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 268, §4 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 704, §4 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 634, §12 (RP).

§1018. Updating statement

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 252, §4 (RPR). PL 2001, c. 75, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 634, §13 (RP).

§1019. False statement; failure to file

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 252, §5 (AMD). PL 1977, c. 696, §12 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 471, §5 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 634, §14 (RP).

§1020. Penalty for false accusations

A person who files a false charge of a conflict of interest with the commission or a member of the commission that the person does not believe to be true, or a person who induces another to file a false charge of a conflict of interest that the person does not believe to be true, is guilty of a Class E crime. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §23 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 696, §13 (RPR). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §23 (COR).

§1021. Membership on boards, authorities or commissions

It is not a conflict of interest for a Legislator to serve on a public board, authority or commission created by the Legislature so long as a consideration is not paid to the Legislator other than the Legislator's actual expenses. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §24 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1975, c. 621, §1 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §24 (COR).

§1022. Disciplinary guidelines

The Legislature shall adopt, publish, maintain and implement, as authorized in the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 4, disciplinary guidelines and procedures for Legislators, including the violations of ethical standards, penalties of reprimand, censure or expulsion and the procedures under which these or other penalties may be imposed. [PL 1989, c. 561, §12 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 561, §12 (NEW).

§1023. Code of ethics

The Legislature by Joint Rule shall adopt and publish a code of ethics for Legislators and legislative employees. [PL 1989, c. 561, §12 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 561, §12 (NEW).

§1024. Waiting period before engaging in lobbying activities

1. Actions precluded beginning with the 127th Legislature.

[RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §1 (COR); MRSA T. 1 §1024, sub-§1 (RP).]

1-A. Actions precluded beginning with the 130th Legislature. Beginning with the convening of the 130th Legislature, a person who has served as a Legislator may not engage in compensated lobbying until one year after that person's term as a Legislator ends.

[PL 2019, c. 57, §2 (NEW).]

2. Complaints and investigations. A person may file a complaint with the commission specifying an alleged violation of this section. The commission staff shall notify the party against whom the complaint has been filed and may undertake the investigation of the alleged violation if directed by the commission. The commission may direct commission staff to undertake an investigation of an alleged violation of this section on its own motion.

[PL 2013, c. 129, §2 (NEW).]

3. Penalty. A person who intentionally violates this section is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000, payable to the State and recoverable in a civil action.

[PL 2013, c. 129, §2 (NEW).]

4. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Compensated lobbying" means lobbying conducted by an individual who is specifically employed by another person other than the State or an agency of the State for that purpose or lobbying conducted by an individual as a regular employee of another person other than the State or an agency of the State. "Compensated lobbying" does not include activities for which the individual receives no compensation other than reimbursement for lobbying-related travel within the State and reimbursement for other out-of-pocket expenditures made by the individual for printing, postage and food and lodging connected with lobbying activities paid for by the individual. For the purposes of this paragraph, "reimbursement for other out-of-pocket expenditures" does not include reimbursement for the individual's time spent lobbying that would have been otherwise compensated by an employer or in the course of the individual's employment.

[PL 2019, c. 57, §3 (NEW).]

B. "Lobbying" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 9. [PL 2019, c. 57, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 57, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 129, §2 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 57, §§1-3 (AMD). RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §1 (COR).

SUBCHAPTER 3

GUBERNATORIAL TRANSITION

§1051. Gubernatorial inauguration and transition committees

1. Definitions. As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Commission" means the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. [IB 2015, c. 1, §1 (NEW).]

B. "Election cycle" means the period beginning on the day after the general election for any state, county or municipal office and ending on the day of the next general election for that office. [IB 2015, c. 1, §1 (NEW).]

C. "Governor-elect" means the candidate for the office of Governor elected at the most recent general election. [PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

2. Inauguration committee; funding. A person may solicit and accept donations for the purpose of financing costs related to the inauguration of a Governor-elect. A person who accepts donations for this purpose shall establish a committee and appoint a treasurer who is responsible for keeping records of donations and for filing a financial disclosure statement required by this section. All donations received must be deposited in a separate and segregated account and may not be commingled with any contributions received by any candidate or political committee, any personal or business funds of any person or donations received by a committee established under subsection 2-A. All donations received by the committee established under this subsection must be used for expenses related to the inauguration; any surplus funds must be disposed of pursuant to subsection 7. A person may make donations to the committee established under this subsection aggregating no more than the amount that an individual may contribute to a gubernatorial candidate under Title 21-A, section 1015, subsection 1. [PL 2023, c. 573, §2 (AMD).]

2-A. Transition committee; funding. A person may solicit and accept donations for the purpose of financing costs related to the transition to office of a Governor-elect. A person who accepts donations for this purpose shall establish a committee and appoint a treasurer who is responsible for keeping records of donations and for filing a financial disclosure statement required by this section. All donations received must be deposited in a separate and segregated account and may not be commingled with any contributions received by any candidate or political committee, any personal or business funds of any person or donations received by a committee established under subsection 2. All donations received by the committee established under this subsection must be used for expenses related to the transition to office; any surplus funds must be disposed of pursuant to subsection 7. A person may make donations to the committee established under this subsection aggregating no more than the amount that an individual may contribute to a gubernatorial candidate under Title 21-A, section 1015, subsection 1, except that the appropriation from the Governor-elect's Expense Account under Title 2, section 3 may be transferred, in whole or in part, to the committee established under this subsection. [PL 2023, c. 573, §3 (NEW).]

3. Registration with the commission and financial disclosure statements. A committee established pursuant to this section shall register and file financial disclosure statements with the commission as required by this subsection.

A. The committee shall register with the commission within 10 days after appointment of a treasurer. The registration must include the name and mailing addresses of the members of the committee, its treasurer and all individuals designated by the committee to raise funds for the committee. [PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

B. Financial disclosure statements must contain the names, addresses, occupations and employers of all donors who have given money or anything of value in a total amount exceeding \$50 to the committee, including in-kind donations of goods or services, along with the amounts and dates of the donations. Donations with a total value of \$50 or less may be disclosed in the aggregate without itemization or other identification. [PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

C. If the committee owes a debt or loan at the end of a time period for a financial disclosure statement, the committee shall report the debt or loan. If a creditor or lender forgives a debt or loan, the committee shall disclose the forgiven debt or loan as a donation. [PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

D. Financial disclosure statements must include the amounts, dates, payees and purposes of all payments made by the committee during the statement period. [PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

E. Financial disclosure statements must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on January 2nd and February 15th following the gubernatorial election and must be complete as of 10 days prior to those filing deadlines. If the committee has surplus funds or an unpaid debt or loan after the end of the statement period for the February 15th statement, the committee shall file bimonthly financial disclosure statements beginning on April 15th until it disposes of all surplus funds and satisfies all debts and loans. [PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

F. The treasurer shall keep a detailed and exact account of all contributions made to the committee and all expenditures made by the committee for one year following the final financial disclosure statement filed by the committee. [PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

4. Limitation on fund-raising activity. A committee established pursuant to this section may accept donations until March 31st of the year following the gubernatorial election. The commission may authorize the acceptance of donations after March 31st of the year following the gubernatorial election if a committee requests such authorization in order to pay a debt or loan related to the transition to office for a committee established under subsection 2-A or inauguration for a committee established under subsection 2.

[PL 2023, c. 573, §4 (AMD).]

5. Prohibited donations during a legislative session. A committee established pursuant to this section may not directly or indirectly solicit or accept a donation from a lobbyist, lobbyist associate or employer during any period of time in which the Legislature is convened before final adjournment. A lobbyist, lobbyist associate or employer may not directly or indirectly give, offer or promise a donation to a committee established pursuant to this section during any period of time in which the Legislature is convened before final adjournment. For purposes of this subsection, "lobbyist" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 10; "lobbyist associate" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 10-A; and "employer" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 5.

[PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

6. Anonymous donations. A committee established pursuant to this section may not accept an anonymous donation in excess of \$50.

[IB 2015, c. 1, §1 (NEW).]

7. Disposing of surplus funds. Any surplus funds remaining in the committee's account must be refunded to one or more donors, donated to a charitable organization that qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under 26 United States Code, Section 501(c)(3) or remitted to the State Treasurer.

[PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

8. Rulemaking. The commission may establish by routine technical rule, adopted in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, forms and procedures for ensuring compliance with this section.

[IB 2015, c. 1, §1 (NEW).]

9. Enforcement and penalty. The commission shall administer and enforce this subchapter. A person who violates this subchapter is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000, payable to the State and recoverable in a civil action. In assessing a civil penalty under this subsection, the commission shall consider, among other things, whether the person made a bona fide effort to comply with the requirements of this section, whether the violation occurred as the result of an error by a vendor, consultant or other party outside the control of the person and whether evidence is present that the person intended to conceal or misrepresent its financial activities.

[PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

IB 2015, c. 1, §1 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 564, §1 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 573, §§1-4 (AMD).

CHAPTER 27

NAMES OF PLACES

§1101. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following words shall have the following meanings: [PL 1979, c. 541, Pt. A, §5 (AMD).]

1. Offensive name. "Offensive name" means a name of a place that includes:

A. The designation "nigger" or "squaw" or any derivation of "squaw" as a separate word or as part of a word or phrase; or [PL 2009, c. 284, §1 (AMD).]

B. The designation "squa" or any derivation of "squa" as a separate word or as a separate syllable in a word. [PL 2009, c. 284, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2009, c. 284, §1 (AMD).]

2. Place. "Place" means any natural geographic feature or any street, alley or other road within the jurisdiction of the State, or any political subdivision of the State.

[PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 127, §1 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 541, §A5 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 613, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 471, §D3 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 284, §1 (AMD).

§1102. Offensive names prohibited

1. Place in State may not have offensive name. A place in this State may not have or be given an offensive name.

[PL 2001, c. 244, §1 (NEW).]

2. Sign on interstate highway or Maine Turnpike may not contain offensive name. A sign placed by the State on an interstate highway or the Maine Turnpike may not contain an offensive name.

[PL 2001, c. 244, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 244, §1 (RPR).

§1103. Complaint filed

Any person who believes that a place has an offensive name may file a complaint with the Maine Human Rights Commission. Any such complaint filed with this commission shall be subject to the provisions included in Title 5, section 4632. [PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW).

§1104. Responsibility of municipal officers and county commissioners

The municipal officers of the municipality or the county commissioners responsible for the unorganized territory, in which a place is found pursuant to Title 5, section 4632, to have an offensive name, shall have the following responsibilities: [PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW).]

1. Reasonable actions. They shall take whatever reasonable actions are required to complete a change in the offensive name. They may hold public hearings on selecting a new name; and [PL 1999, c. 613, §2 (AMD).]

2. Notification. Unless a court order is issued under Title 5, section 4632 specifying a different deadline, within 6 months of the determination that the place has an offensive name, they shall provide notice of the new name to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior and other public agencies, boards, committees or other groups responsible for changing names of places and for ensuring that such name changes appear on maps and other public documents. [PL 1999, c. 613, §2 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 259, §1 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 613, §2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).

CHAPTER 28

NAMES OF GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

§1501. Name changes by Passamaquoddy Tribe

When the Joint Tribal Council of the Passamaquoddy Tribe changes the name of a geographic feature within its Indian territory, the State shall assist the Passamaquoddy Tribe in notifying the necessary entities, including the United States Board on Geographic Names, to accomplish the name change in official maps and documents. [PL 1997, c. 650, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 650, §1 (NEW).

CHAPTER 29

TERMINATION OF STATUTORY PROVISIONS

§2501. Repeal of statutory provisions

The following statutory provisions are repealed on the dates set forth in this section. [PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW); PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW).]

4. Title 4.

A. Title 4, section 181 shall be repealed on November 1, 1986. [PL 1985, c. 368, §1 (AMD).]
[PL 1985, c. 368, §1 (AMD).]

10. Title 10.

[PL 1995, c. 117, Pt. A, §1 (RP); PL 1995, c. 117, Pt. A, §2 (AFF).]

15. Title 15.

A. Title 15, chapter 513 shall be repealed on September 30, 1982. [PL 1981, c. 392, §1 (AMD).]
[PL 1981, c. 392, §1 (AMD).]

22. Title 22.

A. Title 22, chapter 717 shall be repealed on January 1, 1983. [PL 1979, c. 550, §1 (NEW).]
[PL 1979, c. 550, §1 (NEW).]

24. Title 24.

A. Title 24, chapter 21, subchapter 3 shall be repealed on January 1, 1983. [PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW).]

26. Title 26.

[PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW); PL 1979, c. 515, §1 (RP).]

29. Title 29.

[PL 1993, c. 680, Pt. C, §1 (RP).]

30. Title 30.

[PL 1979, c. 570, §1 (NEW); PL 1979, c. 663, §2 (AMD); PL 1979, c. 732, §§ 2, 31 (RP).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 490, §2 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 696, §14 (RP). PL 1979, c. 370, §1 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 515, §1 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 550, §1 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 570, §1 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 663, §2 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 732, §§2,31 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 392, §1 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 548, §1 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 368, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 698, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 824, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 680, §C1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 117, §A1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 117, §A2 (AFF).

§2502. Committee reports

Any legislative committee having jurisdiction over a statutory provision listed in section 2501 shall prepare and submit to the Legislature, within 30 legislative days after the convening of the last regular session prior to the date set out in section 2501 for repeal of that provision, a report evaluating the advisability of retaining the statutory provision. [PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW); PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 490, §2 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 696, §14 (RP).

§2503. Contents of report

A report prepared pursuant to section 2502 shall include: [PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW); PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW).]

1. Past effectiveness. An evaluation of the past effectiveness of the statutory provision; [PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW); PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW).]

2. Future need. An evaluation of the future need for the statutory provision; [PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW); PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW).]

3. Alternative methods. An examination of alternative methods of attaining the purpose of the provision; [PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW); PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW).]

4. Cost of retention. An estimate of the cost of retaining the provision; and [PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW); PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW).]

5. Recommendation. A recommendation of the committee as to the amendment, repeal, replacement or retention of the provision. [PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW); PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 490, §2 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 492, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 547, §1 (NEW). PL 1977, c. 696, §14 (RP).

CHAPTER 31

REVIEW OF STATUTORY PROVISIONS

§2601. Review of statutory provisions

The following statutory provisions shall be reviewed according to the following schedule. [PL 1979, c. 687, §1 (RPR).]

1. Review of sales tax exemptions.

[PL 1985, c. 430, §1 (RP).]

2. Review of property tax exemptions.

[PL 1999, c. 708, §1 (RP).]

3. Review of hazardous activities definitions. The definition of hazardous activities contained in Title 38, section 482, shall be reviewed by January 1, 1982.

[PL 1981, c. 449, §1 (NEW).]

4. Review of grants for mining impact assistance. The provisions for mining impact assistance contained in Title 36, section 2863, shall be reviewed by January 1, 1987, and every 5 years thereafter.

[PL 1981, c. 711, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 696, §15 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 467, §1 (AMD). PL 1979, c. 687, §1 (RPR). PL 1981, c. 449, §1 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 711, §1 (AMD). PL 1985, c. 430, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 708, §1 (AMD).

§2602. Committee review reports

Any legislative committee having jurisdiction over a statutory provision listed in section 2601 shall prepare and submit to the Legislature, within 30 legislative days after the convening of the 2nd regular session after the date set out in section 2601 for review of that provision, a report evaluating the advisability of retaining the statutory provision. The legislative committee having jurisdiction over the statutory provisions listed in section 2601, subsection 3, shall prepare and submit its report by April 1, 1982. The appropriate departments of State Government are respectfully requested to provide all necessary assistance in preparing the report required by section 2603 and other statutory sections. [PL 1977, c. 696, §15 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 696, §15 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 687, §2 (AMD). PL 1981, c. 449, §2 (AMD).

§2603. Contents of report**1. Report.**

[PL 1999, c. 708, §2 (RP).]

2. Legislation. The report shall contain any legislation which is necessary to accomplish its recommendations.

[PL 1983, c. 777, §1 (RPR).]

3. Provision being reviewed; devoting public hearing time. The committee preparing this report shall devote at least part of one public hearing to the provision being reviewed prior to making its report.

[PL 1983, c. 777, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 696, §15 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 687, §3 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 777, §1 (RPR). PL 1985, c. 430, §2 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 708, §2 (AMD).

CHAPTER 33

PERIODIC REVIEW AND REVISION OF STATUTORY PROVISIONS

§2701. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

1. Agency. "Agency" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 953, subsection 1. [PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

2. Committee of jurisdiction. "Committee of jurisdiction" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 953, subsection 2. [PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

3. Independent agency. "Independent agency" has the same meaning as in Title 3, section 953, subsection 3. [PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

4. Program evaluation report. "Program evaluation report" means the report submitted to the Legislature by an agency or an independent agency in accordance with Title 3, section 956. [PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).

§2702. Report to committee

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes and the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, referred to in this section as "the offices," shall review each program evaluation report submitted to the Legislature under Title 3, chapter 35, and any legislation recommended by a committee of jurisdiction as a result of the committee's review, analysis and evaluation of the program evaluation report. The offices shall identify those statutory provisions that are: [PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

1. Identified for review. Identified, pursuant to Title 3, section 956, subsection 2, paragraph Q, in a program evaluation report as potentially requiring legislative review regarding the necessity of amendment to align the statute with federal law, other state law or judicial decisions; and [RR 2013, c. 1, §2 (COR).]

2. Not addressed in legislation. Not addressed in legislation recommended by a committee of jurisdiction as a result of the committee's review, analysis and evaluation of the program evaluation report. [PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

No later than November 1st prior to each first regular session of the Legislature, the offices shall develop a report that lists the provisions identified under this section and shall submit the report to each joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over any of the statutory provisions identified under this section and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters. [PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

RR 2013, c. 1, §2 (COR). PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).

§2703. Committee authority

During the first regular session of the Legislature following submission of a report pursuant to section 2702, each joint standing committee of the Legislature that receives a report pursuant to section

2702 shall review the report and shall make recommendations to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over judiciary matters. The joint standing committee having jurisdiction over judiciary matters shall review the report, and may report out a bill to the first or second regular session of the Legislature to make statutory changes the committee determines necessary to align the statutes with federal law, other state law or decisions of the United States Supreme Court or the Supreme Judicial Court. [PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 110, §1 (NEW).

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