

**MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION**  
Proposed and Adopted Regulations  
February 20, 2026

<b>PROPOSED RULES</b>				
<b>Section</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Written Comments</b>
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence	<p><a href="#">Ch. 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP Manual; Section 999-2; SNAP Rule #230P – ABAWD Geographic Exemptions)</a></p> <p>This proposed rule amends Ch. 301 of the Office of Family Independence’s rules governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Manual by providing an exemption from federal work program requirements to able-bodied adults without dependents who reside in geographic areas that have unemployment rates at or above 10% or have insufficient jobs for recipients residing in those areas. Such exemption is subject to approval by the USDA – Food and Nutrition Services.</p>	None	<p><b>Due:</b> 10/18/24 at 5 PM  <a href="#">Written comments submission</a>  <b>To:</b> Patricia Dushuttle  Special Projects Program Manager – SNAP  Department of Health and Human Services  Office for Family Independence  109 Capitol Street  Augusta, ME 04330-6841  <a href="mailto:Patricia.Dushuttle@Maine.gov">Patricia.Dushuttle@Maine.gov</a></p>
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence	<p><a href="#">Ch. 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rules; Section 999-3</a></p> <p>The proposed Department of Health and Human Services rule would update the Standard Utility Allowance within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to align with FY 2025 figures approved by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service and thereby increase the number of Maine households eligible for SNAP benefits and SNAP Employment and Training services.</p>	None	<p><b>Due:</b> 10/1/24 at 5 PM  <b>To:</b> Michael Downs  Senior Program Manager – SNAP  Department of Health and Human Services  Office for Family Independence  109 Capitol Street  Augusta, ME 04330-6841  <a href="mailto:Michael.E.Downs@Maine.gov">Michael.E.Downs@Maine.gov</a></p>

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DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence	<p><a href="#">Ch. 332, MaineCare Eligibility Manual – Part 2 MaineCare Rule # 310P – Part 2, Section 9 Update</a></p> <p>The proposed rule updates the MaineCare Eligibility Manual consistent with recent legislative changes to close gaps in MaineCare coverage for incarcerated individuals.</p>	None	<p><b>Due:</b> 1/10/25 by 5 PM  <b>To:</b> Adam Hooper          MaineCare Program Manager          Office for Family Independence          Department of Health and Human Services          109 Capitol Street          Augusta, ME 04333  <a href="mailto:Adam.Hooper@Maine.gov">Adam.Hooper@Maine.gov</a></p>
MDOC	Maine Commission on Public Defense Services	<p><a href="#">Ch. 303, Procedures Regarding Legal Research Access &amp; Materials</a></p> <p>This proposed rule establishes procedures for attorneys to request access to legal research services and to seek purchase or reimbursement of legal research materials.</p>	<p>12/17/25          At 3 PM</p> <p>In-Person and Zoom</p> <p>Burton Cross Building          111 Sewall Street          Rm 500          Augusta, ME</p>	<p><b>Due:</b> 12/29/25 at 5 PM  <b>To:</b> Darcy Fisher          154 State House Station          Augusta, ME 04330  <a href="mailto:Darcy.Fisher@Maine.gov">Darcy.Fisher@Maine.gov</a></p>
MDPS	Public Utilities Commission	<p><a href="#">Ch. 4, Requirements for the Dispatch Center and Public Safety Answering Point Consolidation Grant Program</a></p> <p>This proposed rule updates the dispatch center consolidation grant program to reflect new legislation expanding eligibility to public safety answering points. The amendments align Chapter 4 with statutory changes governing program scope and grant administration.</p>	None	<p><b>Due:</b> 12/29/25 through the Commission’s Case Management System (CMS). Comments should refer to the Docket Number of this proceeding, Docket No. 2025-00323  <b>To:</b> Paulina Collins          18 State House Station          Augusta, ME 04333  <a href="mailto:Paulina.Collins@Maine.gov">Paulina.Collins@Maine.gov</a></p>

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MDPS	Maine Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police	<p><a href="#">Ch. 19, Died While in the Line of Duty Death Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers</a></p> <p>The proposed rule makes changes to the procedures governing the award of death benefits to the child, spouse or parent of a law enforcement officer who dies while in the line of duty.</p>	None	<p><b>Due:</b> 6/27/25 at 11:59 PM  <b>To:</b> Major Lucas W. Hare  45 Commerce Drive  Augusta, ME 04333-0087  <a href="mailto:lucas.w.hare@maine.gov">lucas.w.hare@maine.gov</a></p>
MAINE PERS	Maine Public Employees Retirement System	<p><a href="#">Ch. 103, Qualified Domestic Relations Order</a></p> <p>This proposed rule updates provisions governing qualified domestic relations orders by clarifying when digital certification will be accepted in compliance with Maine law and removing references to Social Security in disability retirement benefits to reflect recent statutory changes.</p>	<p>1/8/26  At 11:30 AM</p> <p>139 Capitol Street  Augusta, ME</p>	<p><b>Due:</b> 1/19/26 by 4 PM  <b>To:</b> Bill Brown\  Director of Actuarial and Legislative Affairs  PO Box 349  Augusta, ME 04332  <a href="mailto:Bill.Brown@Mainepers.org">Bill.Brown@Mainepers.org</a></p>
MAINE PERS	Maine Public Employees Retirement System	<p><a href="#">Ch. 511, Standards for Actively Seeking Work</a></p> <p>This proposed rule revises standards for determining whether a disability retirement recipient is actively seeking work by removing the definition of substantially gainful activity, recognizing benefit continuation for up to five years while actively seeking work, and exempting recipients enrolled in education or job training programs from job search requirements.</p>	<p>1/8/26  At 11:30 AM</p> <p>139 Capitol Street  Augusta, ME</p>	<p><b>Due:</b> 1/19/26 by 4 PM  <b>To:</b> Bill Brown\  Director of Actuarial and Legislative Affairs  PO Box 349  Augusta, ME 04332  <a href="mailto:Bill.Brown@Mainepers.org">Bill.Brown@Mainepers.org</a></p>

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MAINE PERS	Maine Public Employees Retirement System	<a href="#">Ch. 803, Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan</a>  This proposed rule amends the consolidated retirement plan for participating local districts by treating preconsolidation service as consolidated plan service for members retiring after implementation of the new pension administration system.	1/8/26 At 11:30 AM  139 Capitol Street Augusta, ME	<b>Due:</b> 1/19/26 by 4 PM <b>To:</b> Bill Brown\ Director of Actuarial and Legislative Affairs PO Box 349 Augusta, ME 04332 <a href="mailto:Bill.Brown@Mainepers.org">Bill.Brown@Mainepers.org</a>
MAINE REVENUE SERVICES	Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services	<a href="#">Ch. 202, Tree Growth Tax Law Valuations – 2026</a>  This proposed rule would repeal and replace Chapter 202 to establish updated 2026 per-acre valuation rates under the Tree Growth Tax Law for each forest type by economic region, as required annually by 36 M.R.S. § 576. The updated valuations will affect the property tax assessed on enrolled forestland.	None	<b>Due:</b> 3/13/26 <b>To:</b> Alex Weber, General Counsel 51 Commerce Drive Augusta, ME 04330 <a href="mailto:Alexander.J.Weber@Maine.gov">Alexander.J.Weber@Maine.gov</a>
<b>ADOPTED RULES</b>				
<b>Section</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Adoption Date</b>	
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence	<a href="#">Ch. 323, Maine General Assistance (GA) Manual, Sections II, III, V, VI, X, XI, XII and XIII</a>  The proposed rule makes various changes to the Maine General Assistance Manual consistent with legislative changes to 22 M.R.S. Secs. 4302, 4303, and 4305 made by P.L. 2024, Chapters 575 and 643.	Adopted Effective 2/2/26	

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MDOC	Maine Department of Corrections	<a href="#">Ch. 10, Policy and Procedure Manual – Adult (Section 20.1, Adult Resident Discipline)</a>  This rulemaking repeals and replaces the Department’s rule on resident discipline in adult correctional facilities to clarify disciplinary procedures and add new categories of rule violations.	Adopted Effective 2/16/26	
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