2009 NEW LAW UPDATE

124th Legislature 2009 First Session

New and Amended Public Laws of Interest to the Law Enforcement Community of Maine



Maine Criminal Justice Academy Maine Chiefs of Police Association Maine Office of the Attorney General

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This publication and the Case Law Update (2009) constitute the training outline of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for recertification training in law updates for the year 2009

Editor's Note

The editor reviewed the public laws passed by the 124th Legislature in the 2009 First Session prior to selecting statutes believed to be of general interest to Maine law enforcement officers. This is not a listing of all laws passed by the Legislature. In the interest of clarity and brevity, the selected public laws have been summarized. If a particular change is of interest to the reader, a statutory citation is given so that the reader can review the entire text of the new law, which should be done before any enforcement action is taken. Finally, there are many types of law enforcement officers in Maine and some statutes which may be of interest to only a particular specialized type of law enforcement have been left out to keep the length of this document manageable.

If the reader has questions, comments, etc., the editor can be contacted at:

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Motor Vehicle

Chapter 54 – L.D. 180 & Chapter 415 – L.D. 1475

An Act To Make Technical Corrections to the Operating Under the Influence Laws

This law makes changes to OUI laws to treat out-of-state prior convictions the same as Maine prior convictions for the purpose of increasing the class of crime of operating after habitual offender revocation and aggravated operating after habitual offender revocation. The law further states that ignition interlock provisions also apply to administrative suspensions, not just court-ordered ones. The retroactive application of the law is limited to license suspension periods; they will not increase other penalties.

Retroactive to September 1, 2008

Amends 29-A M.R.S.A. § §2451, sub-§3 Amends 29-A M.R.S.A. §§2508, sub-§1 Amends 29-A M.R.S.A. §§2557-A, sub-§2 Amends 29-A M.R.S.A. §§2558, sub-§2

Chapter 446 – L.D. 6

An Act To Establish a Distracted Driver Law

It is now a traffic violation to fail to maintain control of a motor vehicle if the person either (a) commits a traffic violation, or (b) gets into a reportable accident, <u>while</u> distracted at the time of the violation/accident. The violator can be cited for both this offense and any other traffic violation committed while distracted (e.g., if a violator speeds while distracted, the violator can get both the speeding ticket and the ticket for failure to maintain control).

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 29-A M.R.S.A. § 2117

Chapter 43 – L.D. 7

An Act To Amend the Instruction Permit Process

Under prior law, the licensed driver accompanying a driver with an instruction permit could not have had his or her license suspended in the previous two years. This requirement has been removed and as long as the license is currently valid and the person held a valid license for at least two years in total, it doesn't matter if there was a suspension in the immediately preceding two year period.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 29-A MRSA §1304

Chapter 55 – L.D. 152

An Act Relating to Autocycles

An autocyle is defined as a three-wheeled motorcycle with seat belts, an enclosed cab or roll bar, brakes on at least two wheels, and a steering wheel or tiller. It must meet motorcycle inspection standards to the extent that they are applicable. It may not be operated on any road where the speed limit is greater than 45 mph or where autocycles have been prohibited by a municipality. This law will be automatically repealed in two years.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 29-A MRSA §101 Enacts 29-A MRSA § 2089-A

Chapter 10 – L.D. 169

<u>An Act to Allow a Newly Licensed Driver To Transport a Foreign Exchange</u> <u>Student Who Lives with That Driver's Family</u>

The definition of "immediate family member" for the purposes of determining passengers who may be transported by a newly licensed driver now includes a foreign exchange student who is living with the family of the driver.

Effective March 23, 2009

Amends 29-A MRSA §1311

Chapter 73 – L.D. 178

An Act to Create the Support Animal Welfare Registration Plate.

There is now a Support Animal Welfare registration plate. The proceeds support the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund and the Animal Welfare Auxiliary Fund.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 29-A MRSA §456-G

Chapter 50 – L.D. 437

An Act to Require a Person Under 18 to Wear a Helmet While on a Motorcyle

The age under which a motorcycle rider is required to wear a helmet is increased from 15 years of age to 18 years of age.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 29-A MRSA §2083

Chapter 58 – L.D. 451

An Act To Clarify the Law Regarding Reinstatement of a Driver's License

If a license suspension is solely because of a failure to pay a reinstatement fee, it does not count as an OAS offense for the purposes of the habitual offender statutes.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 29-A MRSA §2551-A

Chapter 91 – L.D. 862

An Act To Improve the Health of Maine Citizens and the Safety of Pedestrians

Similar to the statute requiring that motor vehicle drivers give bicycles at least three feet of clearance, drivers must also give pedestrians at least three feet of clearance where it is safe to do so.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 29-A MRSA §2056

Chapter 1131– L.D. 212

An Act To An Act Regarding the Passing of School Buses by Bicyclists

Similar to a motor vehicle, bicyclists are now obliged to stop for the flashing red lights of school bus and cannot continue until the bus resumes motion or the bicyclist is signaled to proceed by the driver.

Effective September 12, 2009 Enacts 29-A MRSA §2063, sub-§9

Chapter 251– L.D. 1445

An Act To Clarify and Strengthen the State's Motor Vehicle Laws

The law on reflective and tinted glass has been modified so that it if the vehicle has two outside rear view mirrors that are adjusted so that the operator can clearly see the highway behind him, the law no longer applies to windows behind the operator's seat in any vehicle (previously this exception only applied to buses, hearses and limousines).

Effective September 12, 2009 Amends 29-A MRSA § 1916

Department of Public Safety vehicles operated by motor vehicle inspectors may be equipped with auxiliary lights which emit an amber light.

Effective September 12, 2009 Amends 29-A MRSA § 2054

The law which makes it a Class E crime for an operator or pedestrian to refuse to follow the directions of a law enforcement officer at a fire, accident, emergency or special event is amended to include situations where the operator or pedestrian knowingly refuses to follow the instructions of a sign clearly posted by a law enforcement officer to temporarily close a way to vehicular traffic or to vehicles of a certain description or to divert pedestrian or vehicular traffic – if (and only if) the sign includes a warning that it is a crime if the sign is disregarded.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 29-A MRSA § 2078

Chapter 182– L.D. 441

An Act An Act To Establish the Civil Offense of Motor Vehicle Violation Resulting in Death

A person commits the civil offense of motor vehicle violation resulting in death if that person, while operating a motor vehicle and committing a traffic infraction, causes the death of another person. The penalty is a fine of not more than \$5,000 (which may be satisfied by a court-ordered requirement of community service work) and a license suspension of no less than 14 days and up to 4 years.

Effective September 12, 2009 Enacts 29-A MRSA §2413-A

Chapter 297– L.D. 1243

An Act To Amend Operating After Suspension Laws by Creating an Infraction Alternative for Certain Kinds of Operating After Suspension

If a person has no prior OAS's, OAS for the following reasons is no longer criminal and now a traffic infraction:

- The license was suspended for failure to pay a fine;
- The license was suspended for failure to pay a reinstatement fee; or
- The license was suspended for a dishonored check.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 29-A MRSA §2412-A (8)

Chapter 447 – L.D. 1447

An Act Clarifying the Manner in Which a Person's Alcohol Level Is Determined under Maine Law

The OUI statute has been rewritten to include a more specific blood alcohol level (0.08 grams of alcohol or more per 100 milliliters of blood) and a more specific breath alcohol level (0.08 grams of alcohol or more per 210 liters of breath). No substantive changes were made.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends various OUI statutes (motor vehicle, boat, ATV, etc.)

Criminal and Other Related Statutes

Chapter 67 - L.D. 250

An Act To Streamline and Clarify Laws Pertaining to the Civil and Criminal Possession of Marijuana

The marijuana possession laws are amended to increase the amount which may be possessed and only be a civil violation from 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ounces to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. The minimum fine for up to 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ounces is unchanged, but the for possession of up to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, the minimum fine is \$700.00 (maximum is \$1,000.00). See chart below for class of crime for possession of larger amounts.

More than 2 ¹ / ₂ oz, up to 8 oz	Class E Crime
More than 8 oz, up to 16 oz	Class D Crime
More than 16 oz, up to 20 lbs	Class C Crime
Over 20 lbs	Class B Crime

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 17-A MRSA §1106, sub-§3 Amends 17-A MRSA §1107-A, sub-§1 Amends 22 MRSA §2383, sub-§1

Chapter 49 – L.D. 282

An Act Regarding That the Treatment of a Gunshot Wound Be Reported

Prior law required that only a licensed physician must report treatment for gunshot wounds to law enforcement within 24 hours. Now any "health care practitioner or emergency medical services person" must report treatment of gunshot wounds to law enforcement immediately.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 17-A MRSA § 512

Chapter 246 – L.D. 777

An Act to Provide for an Expiration Date for Certain Harassment Notices

A warning given by a law enforcement officer for harassment pursuant to 17-A M.R.S.A. § 506-A is only good for one year.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 17-A MRSA §506-A

Chapter 142 – L.D. 631

An Act To Amend the Laws Relating to the Department of Corrections

An adult probation supervisor is now included within the definition of a law enforcement officer (prior law only included adult probation line officers).

Amends 17-A MRSA §2and multiple other statutes

A law enforcement officer can now make a warrantless arrest for:

A violation of a condition of supervised community confinement granted pursuant to Title 34-A, section 3036-A when requested by a probation officer; or

A violation of a condition of placement on community reintegration status granted pursuant to Title 34-A, sections 3810 and 4112 when requested by a juvenile community corrections officer; or

A violation of a condition of furlough or other rehabilitative program authorized under Title 34-A, section 3035 when requested by a probation officer or juvenile community corrections officer; and

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 17-A MRSA §15

Chapter 449 – L.D. 633

An Act To Amend the Law of Refusing To Submit to Arrest or Detention

The Refusing to Submit to Arrest statute has been amended to now include flight (prior law was limited to situations involving physical force used by the suspect). It is a Class E crime if the suspect flees, a Class D crime if the suspect fights or uses force. There is a new defense to a flight prosecution (but not a force prosecution) if the suspect did not reasonably believe that the law enforcement officer had a right to arrest them.

Effective September 12, 2009

Repeals 17-A MRSA §751-A Enacts 17-A MRSA §751-B

Communications

Chapter 219 – L.D. 555

An Act To Promote Public Safety Answering Point Efficiency

The ESCB must annually report information on the performance of each PSAP. The ESCB must prepare a report on the optimum configuration of PSAP's within the State and the benefits and consequences of expanding the 9-1-1 surcharge to fund all E-9-1-1 system costs.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 25 MRSA § 2926

Chapter 416 – L.D. 264

An Act To Amend the Surcharge for the E-9-1-1 System

The 9-1-1 surcharge is increased from \$0.30 to \$0.37 in on July 1, 2009 and \$0.52 on July 1, 2010.

Effective June 17, 2009

Amends 25 MRSA § 2927

Fish and Wildlife

Chapter 46 – L.D. 54

An Act To Change the Coyote Night Hunting Season

The coyote night hunting season now begins on December 16th. It still ends on June 1st.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 12 MRSA §12001

Chapter 389 – L.D. 308

An Act To Clarify Standards by Which All-terrain Vehicles May Be Stopped

Game wardens and other law enforcement officers must now have reasonable and articulable suspicion of a violation of law before stopping an ATV.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 12 MRSA §10353 (2)(G)

Chapter 312 – L.D. 415

An Act To Regulate Swim Areas on Inland Waters

A person may not place or maintain a swim line without a permit from the Department of Conservation. Only camping areas, recreational camps, government entities, or a governmentally sponsored group will be issued permits. According to the law, municipal inland harbor masters, code enforcement officers, and law enforcement officers are primarily responsible for the enforcement of the law.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 12 MRSA §1900

Juvenile Law

Chapter 93 – L.D. 793

An Act To Improve Juvenile Correctional Services

Juvenile correctional facilities may intercept phone calls made to or from residents, just as adult correctional facilities may do.

Effective September 20, 2007

Amends 15 MRSA §712

Animal Control

Chapter 177 – L.D. 517

An Act To Clarify a Municipality's Authority to Contract with an Animal Shelter Instead of directly employing an ACO, a municipality can contract with a an animal shelter to perform ACO services.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 7 M.R.S.A. §3947 & 3949

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Miscellaneous

Chapter 320 – L.D. 1159

An Act Relating to Industrial Hemp

A person may obtain a license to grow industrial hemp. The licensee must undergo a background check and there are reporting requirements regarding the crop. However, no licenses are to be issued unless and until the federal government changes the Controlled Substances Act to exclude industrial hemp from the definition of the term "marijuana."

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 7 M.R.S.A. §2231

Chapter 352 - L.D. 1089

An Act to Regulate Mixed Martial Arts Competitions, Exhibitions and Events

The Mixed Martial Arts Authority of Maine is created to regulate and promote Mixed Martial Arts Events.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 8 M.R.S.A. §521 et seq.

Chapter 331 – L.D. 1191

An Act to Improve Teacher Confidentiality Laws

Records of actions to deny, revoke or suspend teacher certification may be released to law enforcement agencies to assist with investigations. They can also be released to teacher licensing authorities in other states and for the purposes of reporting child abuse.

Effective September 12, 2009

Repeals and re-enacts 20-A MRSA §13004, sub-§2-A

Chapter 170 – L.D. 520

An Act Authorizing Colleges and Universities To Regulate Public Safety Campuses

This law makes it clear that colleges and universities have the power to regulate the possession of firearms on their campus.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 20-A MRSA §10009

Chapter 23 – L.D. 227

An Act to Raise the Fee a Bail Commissioner May Charge

This law raises a bail commissioner's fee from \$40 to \$60.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 15 MRSA §1023, sub-§5

Chapter 423 – L.D. 679

An Act to Allow a Court to Award Attorney's Fees in Successful FOA Appeals

As of January 1, 2010, if a person wins an appeal of the denial of the right to inspect and copy a public record, and the court determines that the refusal to allow inspection / copying was in bad faith, the court may award reasonable attorneys fees and court costs to the person who won the appeal.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 1 MRSA §409

Chapter 351 – L.D. 385

<u>An Act to An Act To Ensure a Uniform Comprehensive State Policy Regarding</u> <u>Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders</u>

A municipality may not adopt or enforce restrictions or requirements on a person based upon the person's status as a registered sex offenders. It may adopt or enforce ordinance restrictions based upon a person's conviction for a Class A,B or C sex offense committed against a victim under the age of 14, but only if it is limited to restricting residence within 750 feet of a school (elementary or secondary) or a municipal-owned property where children are the primary users. The is a grandfathering provision which allows the person convicted of the sex offense to remain if the person lived there before the municipal ordinance was passed.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 30-A MRSA §3013

Chapter 421 – L.D. 393

An Act Relating to Death Benefits for Certain Law Enforcement Officers and Amending the Definition of Emergency Vehicles

For the purposes of the law which provides children or the spouse of a law enforcement officer who dies in the line of duty with a tuition-free education at a state run post-secondary institution, the definition of law enforcement officer is expanded to include the following additional people: forest ranger, Baxter State Park ranger, detective employed by the Office of the Attorney General, person employed by the Department of Corrections as an investigative officer, juvenile community corrections officer, probation officer, security officer appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety, motor vehicle investigator or supervisor appointed by the Secretary of State, military security police officer appointed by the Adjutant General, University of Maine System police officer.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 20-A MRSA §12552

Vehicles used by University of Maine System police officers are now defined as emergency vehicles.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 29-A MRSA §2054

Chapter 175 – L.D. 847

An Act Authorizing Statewide Mutual Aid Among First Responder Agencies

Even if there is no mutual aid agreement between two towns, assistance can be provided pursuant to the Maine First Responders Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement drafted by MEMA in 2008. Municipalities have the right to withdraw from this agreement by passing an ordinance.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 37-B MRSA §784-B

Resolve 58 – L.D. 1066

<u>Resolve, Directing the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy To</u> <u>Amend Its Minimum Standards for the Law Enforcement Use of Force Policy</u>

The Board is directed to amend its minimum standards for the use of force policy to include a procedure for agency investigation and review of the use of deadly force, which includes convening an incident review team consisting of members appointed by the chief of each law enforcement agency. Members must include at least one commissioned officer of the State Police, and at least one member of the public who is not and has not previously served as a sworn law enforcement officer. The team shall review the use of deadly force to determine the facts of an incident, whether relevant policy was clearly understandable and effective to cover the particular situation and whether changes are necessary to incorporate improved procedures or practices demonstrated to increase public safety or officer safety, whether training protocols should be reviewed or revised and whether equipment or other resources should be modified.

Chapter 365 – L.D. 1157

An Act to Improve the Use of Information Regarding Sex Offenders

The crime of Prohibited Contact with a Minor is modified to remove the requirement that the offender has to be a sex offender subject to registration requirements, and add a requirement that the prior sex offense conviction be on or after June 30, 1992, and that the violator be the one who initiates contact.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 17-A MRSA §261

Persons convicted of a sex offense between January 1, 1982, and June 30, 1992, no longer have to register if they prove to SBI that: (1)they were finally discharged from the corrections system before September 1, 1998; (2)they do not have more than one (adult or juvenile) Class A sex offense or sexually-violent offense, and; (3)they have not had a felony conviction for any crime in any jurisdiction. They must continue to register until SBI deems that they have met all of these requirements.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 17-A MRSA §11202-A

The definition of a "sex offense" is amended to remove the following crimes: criminal restraint and all forms of kidnapping except for kidnapping where the actor had the intent inflict bodily injury on the kidnapped person or subject the kidnapped person to a sexual assault.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 17-A MRSA §34-A MRSA §11203

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Chapter 451 – L.D. 1166

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Task Force on the Use of Deadly Force by Law Enforcement Officers Against Individuals Suffering From Mental Illness

The MCJA Board must establish minimum policy standards for policies on dealing with mental illness and the process for involuntary commitment no later than January 1, 2010. Each law enforcement agency has to adopt a policy by June 1, 2010, and training has to be done by January 1, 2011.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 25 MRSA §2803-B

A licensed mental health professional must breach confidentiality and notify law enforcement when the licensed mental health professional has reason to believe that a person committed to a state mental health institute has access to firearms.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 34-B MRSA §1207 (8)

When a person is taken by a law enforcement officer to a hospital for a protective custody evaluation, and not admitted but released, the chief administrative officer of the hospital shall notify the law enforcement officer or the law enforcement officer's agency of that release.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 34-B MRSA §3863 (6-A)

Other provisions of this law require that police tactical team certification process include training in dealing with mentally ill subjects, and that the Commissioner of DHHS work in cooperation with law enforcement to develop a checklist to so that law enforcement can better communicate necessary information to mental health professionals when dealing with individuals taken into protective custody.

Chapter 353 – L.D. 1442

An Act To Create the Advisory Committee on Bias-based Profiling by Law Enforcement Officers and Law Enforcement Agencies

A committee is created to work with the MCJA to develop a policy on bias-based profiling, to assess to what extent it is done in Maine, and to develop training for law enforcement on the issue.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 25 MRSA §3001

Chapter 299 – L.D. 1419

<u>An Act To Add Unlicensed Assistive Persons with Notations to the Maine Registry</u> <u>of Certified Nursing Assistants</u>

DHHS will investigate complaints of abuse and neglect by unlicensed assistive persons and, if substantiated, will list them on the CNA registry

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 22 MRSA §1812-G

Chapter 41 – L.D. 427

<u>An Act To Require School Bus Drivers and School Bus Attendants To Report</u> <u>Suspected Child Abuse</u>

School bus drivers are added to the list of people who are mandatory reporters of child abuse.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 22 MRSA §4011-A

Chapter 438 – L.D. 989

An Act To Allow for a Dual Liquor License

A retail establishment can get a dual liquor license for on and off premises consumption as long as:

The licensee's establishment includes a full kitchen that prepares hot and cold meals to be consumed on the premises;

The licensee's establishment includes at least two restrooms available for use by patrons;

The licensee has dedicated an area of the establishment with table seating for a minimum of 16 people to sit and eat a meal prepared by the licensee;

The licensee carries a stock of at least \$35,000 of wine;

The licensee has not committed a violation of this chapter during the past two years, and;

The licensee has received approval from the appropriate municipal officers prior to submitting an application to the bureau.

Effective September 12, 2009

Amends 28-A MRSA §1207

Chapter 373 – L.D. 1008

An Act To Increase Consumer Choice for Wine

A farm winery or other winery holding a federal basic wine manufacturing permit can now obtain a license from the State to ship up to 12 cases of wine per year direct to a residence. The shipments must be conspicuously labeled as follows: "CONTAINS ALCOHOL: SIGNATURE OF A PERSON 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER IS REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY."

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 28-A MRSA §1403-A

Chapter 99 – L.D. 511

An Act To Support Pretrial Diversion Programs for Issuers of Worthless Checks

Private companies who contract with DA's offices to administer a bad check program are excluded from the definition of a debt collector for the purposes of state law regulating debt collectors. However, they still must register with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the Superintendent of Consumer Credit Protection shall review the contract between the private company and the DA's office.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 28-A MRSA §1403-A

Chapter 181 – L.D. 324

An Act To Allow Limited Information Sharing in Domestic Violence Cases

An exception to the criminal history record information law has made to allow criminal justice agencies to share intelligence and investigative information with domestic violence advocates pursuant to a written agreement. The agreement, at a minimum, must:

Permit the advocate to use reports or records that contain intelligence and investigative information for the purpose of planning for the safety of the victim named in the reports;

Prohibit the advocate from further disseminating reports or records that contain intelligence and investigative information;

Require the advocate to ensure that reports or records that contain intelligence and investigative information remain secure and confidential;

Require the advocate to destroy reports or records that contain intelligence and investigative information within 30 days after receiving the report or record;

Permit the criminal justice agency to perform reasonable and appropriate audits in order to ensure that records containing intelligence and investigative information that are obtained by and that are in the custody of the advocate are maintained in accordance with the requirements of this paragraph;

Require the advocate to indemnify and hold harmless the criminal justice agency with respect to any litigation that may result from the provision of reports or records that contain intelligence and investigative information;

Permit the criminal justice agency to immediately and unilaterally revoke an agreement made pursuant to this paragraph; and

Provide sanctions for any violations.

Effective September 12, 2009

Enacts 16 MRSA §614 (3) (E)