**State of Maine: Notice of Agency Rulemaking – September 11, 2024 ONLINE**

**NOTICE OF STATE RULEMAKING**

**PUBLIC INPUT FOR RULES** A list of state agency rule proposals is published here each Wednesday. You can get a copy of a proposed rule by contacting the person listed in the notice. You can comment on a proposed rule by submitting a written comment to the agency or by attending the public hearing, if one is scheduled. If no hearing is scheduled, you can request one.  The agency must hold a hearing if it receives 5 or more requests.  If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in a hearing you should tell the agency at least 7 days before the hearing. **ONLINE INFORMATION** Weekly notices, full text of adopted rules, and a list of agency rulemaking contacts are available at this website: [https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/index.html](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fsos%2Fcec%2Frules%2Findex.html&data=05%7C02%7CJ.Chris.Parr%40maine.gov%7C645b27059f0346864d7008dc94834bf0%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638548538834447354%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=K93i9Iukz%2F4M1hnG1XnmVSNiEpRD2zB99vb6RheIZ8A%3D&reserved=0)

**PROPOSALS**

**AGENCY: 65-407 Public Utilities Commission**

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Chapter 320 Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards
TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSED RULE NUMBER: 2024-P271**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** The Commission initiates a rulemaking to amend Rule 320, Electric Transmission and Distribution Utility Service Standards. With these amendments, the Commission proposes to add a “field services” metric to section 7 and clarify the reporting requirements in section 10. The Commission proposes additional non-substantive changes to the rule for consistency and clarity.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** October 1, 2024 at 1:30pm at the Public Utilities Commission, 26 Katherine Drive, Hallowell, Maine 04347. Persons unable to attend this conference in person may elect to participate virtually by emailing amy.mills@maine.gov at the Commission and requesting a Microsoft Teams invitation. Those unable to attend via video may participate by phone using the dial-in information that appears on the Microsoft Teams invitation (obtained as described above).

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** October 11, 2024. Written comments on the proposed rule may be filed with the Administrative Director until October 11, 2024. However, the Commission requests that comments be filed by September 24, 2024, to allow for follow-up inquiries during the hearing; supplemental comments may be filed after the hearing by October 11, 2024. Written comments should refer to the docket number of this proceeding, Docket No. 2024-00236; be directed to the Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0018; and be filed electronically in the Commission’s Case Management System.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING**: Amy Mills, 18 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333; (207) 287- 1321; amy.mills@maine.gov

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT** *(if different)*:

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES** *(if any)*: None

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 35-A M.R.S. Secs. 104, 111, 301(1-A), 2305-A, 3104-A, 3106

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** *(if different)*:

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** [www.maine.gov/mpuc](http://www.maine.gov/mpuc)

**EMAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** pamela.kowalchuk@maine.gov

**AGENCY: 10-144 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Licensing and Certification**

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: 10-144 CMR Chapter 500, Rules Governing the Maine Certification of Healthcare Cooperative Agreements.**

**TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSED RULE NUMBER: 2024-P274**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** This routine technical rulemaking repeals 10-144 CMR Chapter 500, Rules Governing the Maine Certification of Healthcare Cooperative Agreements.

**PUBLIC HEARING** *(if any)*: None

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** 5 pm. October 11, 2024

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:**

Jonathan Leach, Compliance Manager

Division of Licensing and Certification

41 Anthony Ave., SHS #11

Augusta, ME 0433

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT** *(if different)*: NA

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES** *(if any)*: None.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** PL 2023 Ch 37, An Act to Repeal the Hospital and Health Care Provider Cooperation Act

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** *(if different)*:

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/rulemaking>

**EMAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** emily.a.cathcart@maine.gov

**AGENCY: 16-163 Emergency Medical Services Board (Maine EMS)**

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Chapter 27: Implementation of EMS Sustainability Program**

**TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSED RULE NUMBER: 2024-P253**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** The Emergency Medical Services Board is proposing a new rule to implement the sustainability program created by P.L. 2023, c. 412, Pt. GGGGG, Sec. 1, setting forth the application, allocation, and award process for $19,308,000.00, allocating funds to entities eligible under the rule including Transporting Ambulance Services, Non-transporting Ambulance Services, business entities designated as Regional Councils, and Maine EMS-authorized Training Centers.

**PUBLIC HEARING** (if any):

At their regular meeting on September 4, 2024, the Emergency Medical Services Board voted to hold public hearings on this rule proposal.

• Region One: York County EMA, 149 Jordan Springs Rd, Alfred, ME, 04002, at 6:00 P.M., on October 3, 2024.

• Region Two: Department of Public Safety, 45 Commerce Dr, Augusta, ME, 04330 at 6:00 P.M. on October 4th, 2024.

• Region Three: Eastern Maine Community College, 354 Hogan Rd, Bangor, ME, 04401 at 6:00 P.M. on October 2nd, 2024.

• Region Four: AR Gould Hospital, 140 Academy St, Presque Isle, ME, 04769, at 6:00 P.M. on October 3rd, 2024.

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** The comment deadline has been extended from September 21, 2024, to October 15, 2024. Comments may be submitted to Maine EMS no later than 11:59 P.M. on October 15th, 2024.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:**

Jason J. Cooney;

152 State House Station,

Augusta, ME 04333-0152;

207-626-3864 – Phone;

207-287-3659 – TTY;

207-287-6251 – Fax;

jason.j.cooney@maine.gov

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT** (if different): Contact Person is the Same.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES** (if any): Maine EMS does not anticipate any costs to Municipalities or Counties for compliance with the rule.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 32 M.R.S. Sec. 84(1)(A), 32 M.R.S. Sec. 98(4).

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** (if different): None

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** https://www.maine.gov/ems/

**EMAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** jason.j.cooney@maine.gov

**AGENCY: 29-250 Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Election and Commissions (CEC)**

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Ch. 525, Rules for Administering the Central Issuance and Processing of UOCAVA Absentee Ballots**

**TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSED RULE NUMBER: 2024-P275**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** This rule is being amended to facilitate timely and accurate central processing and counting of absentee ballots cast by voters covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act. The amendment corrects errors included in the current version of the rule. It also expands the amount of time that absentee ballots may be processed (removing ballots from the absentee envelopes and depositing them in a locked ballot box) from the day before election day to the 7th day immediately prior to election day in order to facilitate tabulation of the ballots on Election Day. The rule clarifies procedures for UOCAVA voters who opt to return an absentee ballot electronically. The amendment also clarifies when appointments of wardens, deputy wardens, and election clerks will occur; and provides law enforcement personnel are to take physical control of all ballots and related materials that are involved in a recount, if requested by the Secretary of State.

**PUBLIC HEARING** (if any): Monday, September 30, 2024, 1 pm, Room 206, Burton Cross Building, 111 Sewall Street, Augusta.

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** October 10, 2024

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:** Melissa Packard, Director of Election Admin., Audits and Admin. Services, CEC, 184 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333-0184. Telephone: (207) 624-7650. E-mail: Melissa.Packard@Maine.gov.

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT** (if different): Same

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES** (if any): This rule will not have a fiscal impact on municipalities or counties.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** Title 21-A MRS Sec. 783

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** (if different): Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff et seq.)

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/

**EMAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** Dorothy.Canelli@Maine.gov

**ADOPTIONS**

**NOTICE:** The effective date of Section 16, subsection C of 01-669 C.M.R. Chapter 21, *Statewide Standards for Timber Harvesting and Related Activities in Shoreland Areas*, is **January 1, 2026**. *See generally* [Ch. 21](https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/01/669/669c021.docx), *Statewide Standards for Timber Harvesting and Related Activities in Shoreland Areas*.

**AGENCY: 18-674 DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES - MAINE BOARD OF TAX APPEALS**

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: Chapter 100, Maine Board of Tax Appeals Practice and Procedure**

**ADOPTED RULE NUMBER: 2024-P211**

**CONCISE SUMMARY:**

This rule updates 18-674 C.M.R. ch. 100 Sec. 105(1) to reflect changes made by P.L. 2023, c. 412 to 36 M.R.S.A. Sec. 151(2)(C) limiting the jurisdiction of the Maine Board of Tax Appeals to matters where the amount in controversy is $500,000 or less, which became effective October 25, 2023.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**: Saturday, September 14, 2024

**AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:** Derek A. Jones, Esq., Chief Appeals Officer

AGENCY NAME: Maine Board of Tax Appeals

ADDRESS: 134 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0134

TELEPHONE: 207-287-2863