State of Maine

NOTICE OF STATE AGENCY 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>

PROPOSALS

AGENCY: Department of Marine Resources

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: 13-188 C.M.R. Ch. 11, Scallops (2025-2026 Season)**

**TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSAL FILING NUMBER: 2025-P135**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** This proposed rule-making establishes the 2025-2026 scallop fishing season for Zones 1, 2, and 3. A 60 day season is proposed for Zone 1, a 70 day season is proposed for Zone 2, and a 50 day season is proposed for Zone 3. Daily possession limits of 15 gallons for Zone 1 and Zone 2, and 10 gallons for Zone 3 remain unchanged.  Limited Access Areas for 2025-2026 are identified in the proposed rule. Harvesting scallops by hand (diving) is restricted to Rotation A (First). Harvesting scallops by dredge gear is restricted to Rotation B (Second) only for the 2025-2026 season. Rotation C (Third) is closed to all harvest.

DETAILED SUMMARY:

This proposed rule-making establishes the 2025-2026 scallop fishing season. Daily possession limits of 15 gallons for Zone 1 and Zone 2, and 10 gallons for Zone 3 remain unchanged.  For Zone 1, a 60-day season for draggers would begin on December 8, 2025 and the last day of the season would be March 24, 2026.  For Zone 1, a 60-day season for divers would start on December 3, 2025 and the last day of the season would be April 17, 2026. For Zone 2, a 70-day season for draggers would start on December 1, 2025 and the last day of the season would be March 31, 2026. For Zone 2, a 70-day season for divers would start on November 18, 2025 and the last day of the season would be April 18, 2026.  For Zone 3, a 50-day season for draggers would begin on December 1, 2025 and the last day of the season would be March 25, 2026. For Zone 3, a 50-day season for divers would begin on December 4, 2025 and the last day of the season would be March 28, 2026.

DMR would maintain existing limited access areas: Muscle Ridge, and Whiting and Denny’s Bays. Additionally, the following existing targeted closures would be maintained: Lower Muscle Ridge, Upper Sheepscot River, New Meadows River, Card Cove and Beals-Jonesport Bridge. Proposed limited access areas include Outer Western Casco Bay, Sheepscot River, and Damariscotta River in Zone 1.  Moosabec Reach and Upper Cranberries in Zone 2 are new proposed targeted closures for recovery and rebuilding.

Harvesting scallops by hand (diving) is restricted to Rotation A (First) only for the 2025-2026 season. Harvesting scallops by dredge gear is restricted to Rotation B (Second) only for the 2025-2026 season. Rotation C is closed to all harvest.

**PUBLIC HEARING** *(if any)*:  October 6, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. – DMR Conference Room 118, Marquardt Building, 32 Blossom Lane, Augusta ME and remotely via Microsoft Teams. Remote access information is posted to [https://www.maine.gov/dmr/home](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fdmr%2Fhome&data=05%7C02%7CJ.Chris.Parr%40maine.gov%7C25ff8ad11ce84096458008ddefba33b2%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638930305188675522%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3kQVDB1ZcQ82okyGabFGVYnoE8c6gLa98IuuQ%2B7WFx4%3D&reserved=0) under meetings.

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** October 17, 2025

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING**:

NAME: Deirdre Gilbert

MAILING ADDRESS: 21 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0021

E-MAIL: dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov

TELEPHONE: 207-624-6553

FAX: 207-624-6024

TTY: 207-624-6500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)

Hearing facilities: If you require accommodations due to disability, please contact Meredith Mendelson at 207-624-6553.

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

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

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** §6171, 6722

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

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** [https://www.maine.gov/dmr/rules-enforcement/regulations-rules](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fdmr%2Frules-enforcement%2Fregulations-rules&data=05%7C02%7CJ.Chris.Parr%40maine.gov%7C25ff8ad11ce84096458008ddefba33b2%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638930305188694707%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hiTe4YrkKaIxDoD8EIszXhYy3DrD61ewzIQ1i3%2FS6qo%3D&reserved=0)

**E-MAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULE-MAKING LIAISON:** dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov

AGENCY: Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:  18-553 C.M.R. Ch. 60, Millionaire for Life Rules**

**TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSAL FILING NUMBER: 2025-P136**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** The Maine Lottery will be offering a new multi-jurisdictional lottery game called “Millionaire for Life”.  This new game will offer players in Maine and other participating jurisdictions the chance to win a top prize of $1,000,000 a year for life and a second prize of $100,000 a year for life. These rules will govern the operation of the game.

**PUBLIC HEARING** *(if any)*: No Public Hearing

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** October 24, 2025

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:**

Michael Boardman, Deputy Director

Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages & Lottery Operations

8 State House Station, Augusta ME  04333-0008

Office: (207) 287-4614  Fax: (207) 287-6769

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

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES** *(if any)*:

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 8 MRSA §374 and 8 MRSA §372, sub-§2, ¶I

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

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** [https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bablo/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fdafs%2Fbablo%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJ.Chris.Parr%40maine.gov%7Ca1b1b9b884d34754d90a08ddefcb20cf%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638930377897768158%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uOJfZB0xA49ZnuBS1f6AP2qzEDpau9pAYmeC00EnwfM%3D&reserved=0)

**EMAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** anya.trundy@maine.gov

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rules (Section 999-3; SNAP Rule #237 – FFY 2026 Budgeting Figures)**

**TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSAL FILING NUMBER: 2025-P137**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** Federal rules require that income and asset allowances, standard shelter deductions, and minimum and maximum benefit limits, are updated each year, effective October 1st. The U.S.D.A. - Food and Nutrition Services (F.N.S.) provides updated income and asset allowances, standard deductions, and minimum and maximum benefit standards. F.N.S. annually approves utility allowances calculated by states. The utility allowances proposed in this rule are based on current typical utility expenses for low-income Mainers and may be adjusted prior to adoption based on F.N.S. guidance and final approval. The Department proposes to incorporate these figures effective October 1, 2025. These changes would make SNAP benefits and the related SNAP Employment and Training (E&T) services available to more Maine households.

Retroactive rulemaking is permissible under 22 M.R.S. § 42(8)(A) as this update is necessary to comply with federal requirements, provides a benefit to SNAP recipients and does not adversely impact applicants, participants, beneficiaries, or providers.

**PUBLIC HEARING *(if any)*:** No public hearing is scheduled.

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** Monday, October 20, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Written public comments may be submitted via the link at [https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/rulemaking](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fdhhs%2Fabout%2Frulemaking&data=05%7C02%7CJ.Chris.Parr%40maine.gov%7C115e074d32364af90fd508ddf14fee81%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638932047781836851%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Uqxde16ukmPlPNqAhQHyvzCKWEdw9ArGuNsKNSdNuc8%3D&reserved=0)

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:**

Michael E. Downs, Senior Program Manager — SNAP,

Office for Family Independence

Department of Health and Human Services

109 Capitol Street

Augusta, ME 04333

Phone: (207) 592-4850/Fax: (207) 287-3455

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Michael.E.Downs@Maine.gov

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT *(if different)*:** N/A.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MUNICIPALITIES OR COUNTIES *(if any)*:**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 22 M.R.S. §§ 42(1) and (8); 3104

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED *(if different)*:** N/A.

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** [https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ofi](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2Fdhhs%2Fofi%2Farules&data=05%7C02%7CJ.Chris.Parr%40maine.gov%7C115e074d32364af90fd508ddf14fee81%7C413fa8ab207d4b629bcdea1a8f2f864e%7C0%7C0%7C638932047781858280%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kQLxIde%2Fyxi6akQmi28ZDT99Ld0nis8IsoZe%2FtxQYBo%3D&reserved=0)

**EMAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** Emily.A.Cathcart@maine.gov

AGENCY: 17-387 State Pilotage Commission

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: 17-387 C.M.R. Ch. 2, Pilotage Rates**

**TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSAL FILING NUMBER: 2025-P138**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** This rule revises the rates for the use of the Maine Pilotage Commission set forth of existing Chapter 2.

**PUBLIC HEARING**:

October 10, 2025

10:30am

MaineDOT HQ – Conference Room 216

24 Child St.

Augusta, ME 04330

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** October 21, 2025

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:**

Lindsey Pinkham

Administrator Maine Pilotage Commission

Maine Department of Transportation

16 SHS

Augusta, ME 04333

Email: lindsey@midcoastfirstaid.com

Tel: (207) 380-4661

**CONTACT PERSON FOR SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT** *(if different)*: Not applicable

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

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 38 M.R.S. §90

**SUBSTANTIVE STATE OR FEDERAL LAW BEING IMPLEMENTED** *(if different)*: Not applicable

**AGENCY WEBSITE:** [www.mainepilotage.org](http://www.mainepilotage.org)

**EMAIL FOR OVERALL AGENCY RULEMAKING LIAISON:** lindsey@midcoastfirstaid.com

**[APAO Note: The following notice was corrected on September 17, 2025, where indicated:]**

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 276, Rules For Influenza Agent Distribution Report**

**TYPE OF RULE: Routine Technical**

**PROPOSAL FILING NUMBER: 2025-P139**

**BRIEF SUMMARY:** The Department is proposing to repeal 10-144 CMR chapter 276, Rules For Influenza Agent Distribution Report, established January 27, 2008. The rule is obsolete following the repeal of 22 MRS § 1065 which eliminated reporting requirements specific to influenza immunization agents sold, shipped or otherwise distributed in the State of Maine. (PL 2011 c. 320).

**PUBLIC HEARING** *(if any)*: Not scheduled. A public hearing may be requested by contacting the person identified below for this filing. (5 MRS § 8052).

**COMMENT DEADLINE:** Monday, ~~October 19, 2025~~ **October 20, 2025**

**CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS FILING:** Bridget Danis, Policy Analyst; 11 SHS, 286 Water St., Augusta, ME 04333; Tele: 207-287-9394; bridget.danis@maine.gov

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

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

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THIS RULE:** 22 MRS § 1065 *(Repealed*)

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

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

**DHHS RULEMAKING LIAISON:** Emily.A.Cathcart@Maine.gov

ADOPTIONS

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: 10-144 C.M.R. Chapter 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rules (Sections 111-5 and 111-7; SNAP Rule #240E- ABAWD Update)**

**ADOPTED RULE NUMBER: 2025-177 (Emergency Rule)**

**CONCISE SUMMARY:**

The Department adopts this emergency rule to amend 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 301; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Program Rules to ensure compliance with H.R. 1-Budget Reconciliation Act signed into law on July 4, 2025.

This emergency rule makes the following changes Section 111-5:

* Updates I(A) Work Registration as “each household member age 16 through 59 who is not exempt pursuant to subsections 1 through 10, below must register for Work Registration.”
* Removes from I(B) “under sixteen, or sixty or over.”
* Makes various formatting updates to facilitate accurate referencing in the changes to Section 111-7.

This emergency rule makes the following changes to Section 111-7:

* Updates 1(A)(2) to include as ABAWDs individuals in a household with in which the youngest member is age 14-17.
* Removes I(B)(1)-(4).
* I(B)(1) adds “An individual is no longer an ABAWD—Beginning the month they turn 65 years of age.”
* Adds (1)(D) or (E) to 4(A) EXEMPT MEMBERS for clarification.
* 4(I) adds “a member of a federally recognized tribe or otherwise eligible for health services provided by the Indian Health Service (IHS).”
* Removes 4(J).

FINDINGS OF EMERGENCY:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 8054, the Department finds that emergency rulemaking is necessary to comply with H.R. 1 – the Budget Reconciliation Act, effective July 4, 2025, and ensure the health and general welfare of Maine citizens and the viability of the SNAP program. Non compliance with federal requirements risks loss of SNAP funding resulting in a reduction or termination of the state’s ability to provide nutritional supports to Maine’s citizens in need.

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S §8054, this emergency rule may be effective for up to ninety (90) days. The Department shall proceed with routine technical rulemaking to permanently adopt these rule changes.

See <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/rulemaking> for rules and related rulemaking documents.

**EFFECTIVE DATE: Tuesday, September 16, 2025**

**AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:**

Evan Denno, SNAP Program Manager

Office for Family Independence

Department of Health and Human Services

109 Capitol Street

Augusta, ME 04333

Phone: (207) 446-3201/Fax: (207) 287-3455

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Evan.Denno@Maine.gov

**NOTICE: This Emergency Filing (2025-178) was withdrawn by the agency on September 17, 2025:**

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence

**CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE: 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 301, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rules (Sections 555-4 and 555-5; SNAP Rule #242E – LiHEAP Update)**

**ADOPTION FILING NUMBER: 2025-178 (Emergency Rule)**

**CONCISE SUMMARY:**

The Department adopts this emergency rule to amend 10-144 C.M.R. Ch. 301; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Rules to ensure compliance with Pub. L 119-21, An Act To provide for the reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14, signed into law on July 4, 2025. This rule modifies the treatment of LiHEAP and similar payments. Historically, any household receiving $20 or more in LiHEAP or a similar support was eligible for the Full Standard Utility Allowance. Going forward, that will be limited to households in which at least one member is elderly or has a disabling condition and they receive more than $20 in LiHEAP or a similar support. Historically, LiHEAP and similar payments were excluded income for all households. Going forward any recurring energy assistance will be countable income for households with no members who are elderly or have a disabling condition.

FINDINGS OF EMERGENCY:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S. § 8054, the Department finds that emergency rulemaking is necessary to comply with H.R. 1 – the Budget Reconciliation Act, effective July 4, 2025, and ensure the health and general welfare of Maine citizens and the viability of the SNAP program. Noncompliance with federal requirements risks loss of SNAP funding resulting in a reduction or termination of the state’s ability to provide nutrition supports to Maine’s citizens in need.

See <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/about/rulemaking> for rules and related rulemaking documents.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**: **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**

**AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:**

Michael Downs, Senior Program Manager — SNAP

Office for Family Independence

Department of Health and Human Services

109 Capitol Street

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