

**CHAPTER 17****SPECIAL PROVISIONS****§301. Civil Air Patrol**

The Civil Air Patrol shall expend funds made available to it pursuant to Title 37-B, section 3, subsection 1, paragraph D, subparagraph (13) as in its best judgment would most effectively carry out its purpose and objectives. [PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. K, §1 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1977, c. 678, §48 (NEW). PL 1999, c. 401, §K1 (AMD).

**§302. Maine Aeronautical Advisory Board****1. Board established.**

A. The Maine Aeronautical Advisory Board, established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 81, and in this section called "the board," is a board within the Department of Transportation. [PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]  
[PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Membership.**

- A. The membership of the board consists of at least 7 voting members appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation. All members shall serve a term of office of 2 years consistent with the state fiscal year. Terms must be staggered so that approximately half of the board is renewed each year. The commissioner shall endeavor to appoint a balance of public and private sector members holding diverse knowledge and perspectives of the aeronautics industry. Vacancies may be filled to serve out the remainder of a term if a member resigns or is terminated for cause or a vacancy is created in any other manner. [PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]
- B. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall serve as a nonvoting secretary and clerk of the board and be responsible for board records and filings. All other members are voting members. [PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (NEW).]
- C. The board shall annually elect a chair and vice-chair from among its membership to serve a one-year term. If a vacancy occurs in the office of chair or vice-chair, the board shall endeavor to fill that office for the remainder of the term. [PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (NEW).]
- D. Members are not entitled to compensation. [PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (NEW).]  
[PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]

**3. Meetings.**

- A. The board shall meet at the call of the chair, or at the call of at least 3 members of the board, and there must be at least one meeting held a year at which time officers are elected for the ensuing year. [PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]
- B. [PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (RP).]  
[PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]

**4. Duties.**

- A. The board shall advise the department on matters relating to aeronautics. [PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]  
[PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]

**4-A. Powers.** The board is authorized to adopt bylaws and other appropriate policies to effectively govern its proceedings.

[PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (NEW).]

**5. Staff support.**

A. The department shall supply reasonable staff support requested by the board. [PL 1977, c. 678, §48 (NEW).]

[PL 1977, c. 678, §48 (NEW).]

**6. Transition.**

A. Of the initial members appointed to the board, 3 shall serve for a term of one year and 2 shall serve for a term of 2 years. After expiration of the initial term of any member of the board, any appointment to the membership is for a term of 2 years. [PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1977, c. 678, §48 (NEW). PL 1979, c. 80, §6 (AMD). PL 1983, c. 812, §§40,41 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 503, §B35 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 504, §B10 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 131, §§18,19 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 152, §11 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 485, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 211, §1 (AMD).

**§303. Air search procedures**

**1. Agreements.** The Chief of the State Police may establish agreements with public or private agencies or organizations to assist in air search operations.

[PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Situations covered.** The Chief of the State Police shall establish and maintain a state air search and rescue plan for the immediate handling of the following emergency situations arising from aeronautical activities:

A. Locating aircraft believed lost and down within the State; and [PL 1981, c. 41 (NEW).]

B. Locating persons who are believed lost and down in the State as a result of accidents involving aircraft overflying the State or parachute jumps. [PL 1981, c. 41 (NEW).]

For purposes of this section, the phrases "within the State" and "in the State" include the coastal waters of the State as defined in Title 12, section 6001.

[PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).]

**3. Plan of action.** The state air search and rescue plan must provide a plan of action for search and rescue that will mobilize all state and federal agencies that can contribute in those emergencies and inform all state and federal agencies that request to be informed of any air search operation, in accordance with agreements reached in advance. The plan may include utilization of the Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol to coordinate and control specific air search operations. The plan must provide that its first objective is saving human life and rendering prompt aid to survivors.

[PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).]

**4. Authority.** The Chief of the State Police is responsible for the execution and overall coordination of air search and rescue efforts initiated in support of the air search and rescue plan by the Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol and those state and federal agencies that are designated in the plan to play a role in emergencies.

A. [PL 1995, c. 504, Pt. B, §6 (RP).]

A-1. The Chief of the State Police may delegate authority for overall coordination of air search and rescue efforts to a commissioned officer within the Bureau of State Police. [PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (NEW).]

B. [PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (RP).]

C. [PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (RP).]  
[PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 678, §48 (NEW). PL 1981, c. 41 (RPR). PL 1985, c. 610 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 489, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 504, §B6 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 555, §1 (AMD).

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