

**CHAPTER 1**

**COUNTY OFFICERS**

**SUBCHAPTER 1**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§1. Definitions**

As used in this Part, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. County legislative delegation.** "County legislative delegation" means all state legislators whose legislative districts, in whole or in part, lie within the boundaries of a county. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. County officers.** "County officers" means the commissioners, treasurer, sheriff, register of deeds and register of probate of a county. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2-A. Permanent incapacity.** "Permanent incapacity" means a guardian or conservator has been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to manage the affairs of an office holder. [PL 1995, c. 683, §3 (NEW).]

**3. Voter.** "Voter" means a person registered to vote. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. County official.** "County official" means an elected or appointed member of a county government. [PL 2005, c. 79, §1 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 683, §3 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 79, §1 (AMD).

**§2. Salaries**

**1. County officers' salaries.**  
[PL 1993, c. 653, §1 (RP).]

**1-A. Knox County commissioners.**  
[PL 2003, c. 696, §2 (RP).]

**1-B. County officers' salaries.**  
[PL 2003, c. 696, §3 (RP).]

**2. Clerk hire and expenses.** Expenses of county officers shall be allowed as follows.

A. County commissioners shall allow all necessary and proper office expenses, clerk hire and travel to the county officers, except clerks of courts. They shall also allow to the sheriffs, whether acting within or outside the county, the costs of

boarding, guarding and transporting:

- (1) Prisoners, whether awaiting trial, during trial or after conviction; or
- (2) Juveniles, whether awaiting hearing, during hearing or after adjudication that a juvenile offense has been committed. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court or the Chief Justice's designee shall allow to clerks of court, for payment by the State, their necessary and proper office expenses, clerk hire and travel expenses. Clerks must obtain approval of these expenses at such time and in such manner as the Chief Justice or the Chief Justice's designee directs. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Fees and charges.** The payment of fees and charges to the county treasurer is governed by the following provisions.

A. All fees and charges received by any county officer, except clerks of court, shall be paid by that county officer to the county treasurer by the 15th day of every month following the month in which they were collected. Fees received by any clerk of courts shall be paid by that clerk as elsewhere provided by law or, in the absence of express provision, to the State. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. All fees and charges received by any deputy sheriff shall be paid by that deputy sheriff to the county treasurer by the 15th day of every month following the month in which they were collected, except that deputies not on a salary or per diem basis may receive and retain fees for the service of criminal or civil process.

- (1) Sheriffs and their deputies shall collect fees chargeable for the service of civil process only from the litigants.

- (2) Fees chargeable for the service of criminal process by deputies not on salary or per diem must be approved by the respective district attorneys and paid by the respective county treasurers. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Salaries and expenses of court and jury officers.** Each county shall pay the salaries and expenses of bailiffs and other court and jury officers who work for courts located in that county. The Judicial Department shall compensate each county for these salaries and expenses as provided in Title 4, section 25.

[PL 1991, c. 570, §3 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A1,C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 476 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 517, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 928 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 541, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 570, §3 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 852 (AMD). RR 1993, c. 2, §25 (COR). PL 1993, c. 349, §63 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 408, §1 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 653, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 500, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 500, §2 (AFF). PL 1995, c. 701, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 701, §2 (AFF). PL 1997, c. 448, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 448, §3

(AFF). PL 1997, c. 721, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 721, §2 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 377, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 377, §2 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 662, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 662, §2 (AFF). PL 2001, c. 161, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 161, §2 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 696, §§2,3 (AMD).

### **§3. Expense accounts to be under oath**

Whenever required by law to provide a bill of expenses, every county officer shall itemize the bill and swear, before presenting it for auditing or payment, that it includes only actual cash spent in performing the officer's official duties. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### **§4. County officer's private benefit from county labor**

No county officer may receive a private benefit from the labor of any person employed by the county. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### **§5. Conflicts of interest**

Sections 2604 and 2605, invalidating certain actions due to conflicts of interest, apply to all county officials. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### **§6. Transition period**

There is a 30-day transition period for all newly elected county officers from December 1st to January 1st in each year. During this period, each newly elected county officer may, without pay, attend the office to which that county officer has been elected in order to become familiar with its duties. During this period, all of the personnel of that office, including the incumbent county officer, shall assist the officer in learning the duties of that office. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### **§7. Violation and penalty**

Any agent or officer who willfully violates section 701, 921, 922, 923, 924 or 951 is guilty of a Class E crime. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§8. Civil violation**

Any county officer who fails to follow the requirements of this chapter or chapter 3 commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$200 may be adjudged. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**SUBCHAPTER 2**

**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**ARTICLE 1**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§51. Salaries; county commissioners**

**1. Salaries; time of payment.** Except as provided in section 82, the county commissioners in the several counties shall receive annual salaries as set forth in section 2 from the county treasurer in weekly, biweekly, monthly, semiannual or annual payments, as determined by the county commissioners. If these payments are made monthly, they shall be made on the last day of each month; if semiannually, they shall be made on the last day of June and the last day of December; if annually, they shall be made on the last day of December.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Salaries; full compensation.** These salaries are in full compensation for all services of the commissioners, including the management of the jails and for any expenses or travel to and from the county seat for any commissioner, except as provided in subsection 3 and section 105.

[PL 2001, c. 349, §1 (AMD).]

**3. Travel expenses.** Travel expenses shall be allowed as follows.

A. The county commissioners may allow, by majority vote, the payment of all necessary and proper expenses and travel allowances to and from the county seat by commissioners who live more than 5 miles from the county seat. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. When outside of the county seat on official business, including attendance at or participation in public hearings, inspection and supervision of construction, snow removal and maintenance of roads in unincorporated townships in their county, all county commissioners shall be allowed in addition to their salaries all necessary traveling and hotel expenses connected with those activities. All bills for expenses under this paragraph must be approved by the district attorney serving their county and shall be paid by the treasurer of the county. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 349, §1 (AMD).

#### §52. Incompatible offices

**1. Municipal offices.** A person holding the office of county commissioner may not at the same time hold either the office of mayor or assessor of a city or be a member of a select board or hold the office of assessor of a town.

[PL 2021, c. 275, §14 (AMD).]

**2. County offices.** No county commissioner, during the term for which that commissioner has been elected and for one year thereafter may be appointed to any office of profit or employment position of the county, which was created or the compensation of which was increased by the action of the county commissioners during the county commissioner's term.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 275, §14 (AMD).

#### §53. Commissioner not agent; spend money

No commissioner may be appointed to expend money assessed or raised for any purpose by the board of which that commissioner is a member. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

## ARTICLE 2

### ELECTION AND TENURE

#### §61. Board of commissioners; election; chairman

There shall be a board of commissioners for each county consisting of a chairman and 2 other persons. Each of the commissioners of a county must represent one of the commissioner districts established by law for the commissioner's county. [PL 2003, c. 43, §1 (AMD).]

**1. Residency; election by district.** Members of each board of commissioners must be residents of the commissioner district which they represent and shall be elected by the voters of that district.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Mode of election.** County commissioners shall be elected on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year. The votes shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in the same manner as votes for Representatives. The municipal clerk shall record in the municipal records the names of the persons voted for, the number of votes for each and the whole

number of ballots received. The municipal clerk shall send true copies of these records, sealed and attested in the same manner as returns of votes for Senators, to the Secretary of State.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Chairman.** The commissioners shall select their chairman annually at their first meeting on or after the first day of January to act for one year.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 43, §1 (AMD).

#### §61-A. York County

Notwithstanding section 61, there shall be a Board of Commissioners for York County consisting of a chair and 4 other citizens. All other provisions of section 61 apply to York County. [PL 1989, c. 220, §§1, 4 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 220, §§1,4 (NEW).

#### §62. Vacancies; expiration of term

Vacancies to occur by expiration of the term of office at the end of any year in which a biennial election is held shall be filled by election on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November in that year. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Term of office.** The term of office for a county commissioner is 4 years, except when a person is elected to fill an unexpired term, in which case it is for the remainder of the unexpired term.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### **2. Election designation.**

[PL 2019, c. 371, §40 (RP).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 371, §40 (AMD).

#### §63. Vacancies during other times

When no choice is effected or a vacancy happens in the office of county commissioner by death, resignation, removal from the county, permanent incapacity or for any other reason, the Governor shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy. That person shall hold office until the first day of January following the next biennial election at which a person is elected to fill the office. [PL 1995, c. 683, §4 (AMD).]

In the case of a vacancy in the term of a commissioner who was nominated by primary election before the general election, the commissioner appointed by the Governor must be enrolled in the same political party as the commissioner whose term is vacant. In making the appointment, the Governor shall choose from any recommendations submitted by the county committee of the political party from which the appointment is to be made. [PL 1995, c. 245, §3 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 245, §3 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 683, §4 (AMD).

**§64. Military or naval service; substitutes**

Whenever a county commissioner during the commissioner's term of office in time of war, contemplated war or emergency, enlists, enrolls, is called or ordered or drafted into the military or naval service of the United States, that commissioner is not deemed to have thereby resigned from or abandoned the office, nor is the commissioner removable from that office during the period of military or naval service except that the term of office is not lengthened because of this section. From the time of induction into service, the commissioner is regarded as on leave of absence without pay from the office, and the Governor shall appoint a competent citizen, a resident of the same county, to fill the office while the county commissioner is in the federal service, but not for a longer period than the remaining portion of that commissioner's term. In the case of a vacancy in the term of a commissioner who was nominated by primary election before the general election, the commissioner appointed by the Governor must be enrolled in the same political party as the commissioner whose term was vacant. During the period of military or naval service, the county shall pay to the substitute county commissioner a salary at the same rate as the rate of pay of the county commissioner and amounts so paid shall be deducted from the salary of the county commissioner. The citizen appointed to fill the temporary vacancy has the title of "substitute county commissioner" and possesses all the rights and powers and is subject to all the duties and obligations of the county commissioner. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§65. Apportionment of county commissioner districts**

**1. Redistricting, generally.** In 2021 and every 10 years thereafter, the apportionment commission established under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 1-A shall review the existing county commissioner districts and, as necessary, reapportion those districts in each county to establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts. The Speaker of the House is responsible for calling the commission together to review the county commissioner districts. No action may be taken by the commission without a quorum of 7.

A. The apportionment commission shall divide the number of commissioners in each county into the number of inhabitants of the county, excluding foreigners not naturalized, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census or a state census previously ordered by the Legislature to coincide with the Federal Decennial Census, to determine a mean population figure for each county commissioner district. Each county commissioner district must be formed of contiguous and compact territory and must cross political subdivision lines the least number of times necessary to establish as nearly as practicable equally populated districts. Whenever the population of a municipality entitles it to more than one district, all whole districts must be drawn within the municipal boundaries. Any population remainder within the municipality must be included in a district drawn to cross the municipal boundary as long as the population remainder within the municipality is contiguous to another municipality or municipalities included in the district. Any county that already meets the standards and guidelines for equally populated districts, as established by this section, the Constitution of Maine and the Constitution of the United States, need not be reapportioned. [PL 2013, c. 85, §2 (AMD).]

B. Interested parties from each county may submit redistricting plans for the commission to consider. Those plans must be submitted to the commission no later than 30 calendar days after the commission is called together by the Speaker of the House under this subsection. The commission may hold public hearings on plans affecting each county. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A,

§2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The commission shall submit its plan to the Clerk of the House no later than June 1st of the year in which reapportionment is required. The Clerk of the House shall submit to the Legislature, no later than January 15, 2022, and every 10th year thereafter, one legislative document to reapportion the county commissioner districts based on the plan submitted by the apportionment commission. The Legislature must enact the submitted plan or a plan of its own in regular or special session by a vote of 2/3 of the members of each House within 30 calendar days after the plan is submitted to it by the Clerk of the House. This action is subject to the Governor's approval, as provided in the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 2. [PL 2013, c. 85, §2 (AMD).]

[PL 2013, c. 85, §2 (AMD).]

**2. Supreme Judicial Court.** If the Legislature fails to make an apportionment within the 30 calendar days, the Supreme Judicial Court shall make the apportionment within 60 calendar days following the period in which the Legislature is required to act, but fails to do so. In making the apportionment, the Supreme Judicial Court shall consider plans and briefs filed by the public with the court during the first 30 days of the period in which the court is required to apportion. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Funding.** The commission shall make equal amounts of money available to the 2 major parties represented on the commission for the purpose of this apportionment. In addition, sufficient funds shall be made available to the chairman of the commission. The commission shall recommend to the Legislature, if that body is in session, otherwise to the Legislative Council, an appropriation sufficient to cover the cost of reapportionment.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 85, §2 (AMD).

#### §66. County commissioner districts

**(REPEALED)**

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1987, c. 871 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 220, §§2,4 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 554, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 462, §A50 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 501, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 611, §B1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 43, §2 (RP). PL 2003, c. 62, §3 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 62, §§5,6 (AFF). PL 2003, c. 291, §1 (RP).

#### §66-A. County commissioner districts

**(REPEALED)**

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 291, §2 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 508, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 534, §2 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 534, §5 (AFF). PL 2005, c. 683, §A50 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 270, Pt. C, §1 (RP).

#### §66-B. County commissioner districts

**(REPEALED)**

#### SECTION HISTORY



RR 2013, c. 1, §§47, 48 (COR). PL 2013, c. 270, Pt. C, §2 (NEW). PL 2013, c. 457, §§14-16 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 362, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 362, §§1-3 (AFF). PL 2021, c. 488, §1 (RP). PL 2021, c. 488, §4 (AFF).

**§66-C. Franklin County Commissioner Districts**

**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 492, §1 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §1 (RP).

**§66-C. Creation of Sagadahoc County Commissioner Districts**

**(REPEALED)**

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 506, §1 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §1 (RP).

**§67. County commissioner districts**

**1. Creation of Androscoggin County Commissioner Districts.** Androscoggin County is divided into the following 7 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the following census units in the minor civil division of Lewiston: Census Tract 201; Block 2010, Block 2011, Block 2012, Block 2013, Block 2014, Block 2015, Block 2016, Block 2017, Block 2018, Block 2019, Block 2020, Block 2021 and Block 2022 of Census Tract 202; Block 2010, Block 2011, Block 3000, Block 3001, Block 3002, Block 3003, Block 3004, Block 3005, Block 3006, Block 3007, Block 3008, Block 3009, Block 3010, Block 3013 and Block 3014 of Census Tract 203.01; Block 1002, Block 1003, Block 1004, Block 1005, Block 1006, Block 1007, Block 1008, Block 1009, Block 1010, Block 1011, Block 1012, Block 1013, Block 1014, Block 1018, Block 1019, Block 1020, Block 1021, Block 1022, Block 1023, Block 1024, Block 1025 and Block 1026 of Census Tract 203.02; Census Tract 203.03; Census Tract 204.01; Census Tract 204.02; Block Group 1, Block Group 4 and Block Group 5 of Census Tract 205; Block Group 2, Block 1000, Block 1001, Block 1002, Block 1003, Block 1004, Block 1005, Block 1006, Block 1013, Block 1017, Block 1018, Block 1019, Block 1020, Block 1021, Block 1022, Block 1023 and Block 1024 of Census Tract 206; and Block 1001 and Block 1002 of Census Tract 207. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the following census units in the minor civil division of Lewiston: Block Group 1, Block 2000, Block 2001, Block 2002, Block 2003, Block 2004, Block 2005, Block 2006, Block 2007, Block 2008 and Block 2009 of Census Tract 202; Block Group 1, Block 2000, Block 2001, Block 2002, Block 2003, Block 2004, Block 2005, Block 2006, Block 2007, Block 2008, Block 2009, Block 3011 and Block 3012 of Census Tract 203.01; Block 1000, Block 1001, Block 1015, Block 1016, Block 1017 and Block 1027 of Census Tract 203.02; Block Group 3 of Census Tract 205; Block Group 2, Block Group 3, Block Group 4, Block Group 5, Block 1000, Block 1003, Block 1004 and Block 1005 of Census Tract 207; Block Group 2, Block 1000, Block 1001, Block 1002, Block 1003, Block 1004, Block 1005, Block 1006, Block 1007, Block 1008, Block 1009 and Block 1012 of Census Tract 208.01; Block Group 3 of Census Tract 208.02; and Census Tract 209. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the following census units in the minor civil division of Lewiston: Block Group 2 of Census Tract 205; Block Group 3, Block 1007, Block 1008, Block 1009, Block 1010, Block 1011, Block 1012, Block 1014, Block 1015, Block 1016, Block 1025, Block 1026, Block 1027, Block 1028, Block 1029, Block 1030, Block 1031, Block 1032, Block 1033, Block 1034, Block 1035, Block 1036, Block 1037 and Block 1038 of Census Tract

206; Block Group 3, Block Group 4, Block 1010 and Block 1011 of Census Tract 208.01; and Block Group 1, Block Group 2 and Block Group 4 of Census Tract 208.02; and the minor civil divisions of Durham and Greene. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

D. Commissioner District Number 4 consists of the minor civil divisions of Lisbon, Sabattus and Wales. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

E. Commissioner District Number 5 consists of the following census units in the minor civil division of Auburn: Census Tract 101; Census Tract 102; Census Tract 103; Block Group 2, Block Group 3, Block 1000, Block 1001, Block 1002, Block 1003, Block 1004 and Block 1011 of Census Tract 104; Block 1000, Block 1001, Block 1002, Block 1003, Block 1004, Block 1005, Block 1006, Block 1007, Block 1008, Block 1014, Block 1024, Block 1025, Block 1026, Block 1027, Block 1028, Block 1029, Block 1030, Block 1031, Block 1032, Block 1033, Block 1034, Block 1035, Block 1036, Block 1037, Block 1038, Block 1039, Block 1040, Block 1041, Block 1042, Block 1043, Block 1044, Block 1045, Block 1046, Block 1047, Block 1048, Block 1049, Block 1050 and Block 1051 of Census Tract 107; and Census Tract 108. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

F. Commissioner District Number 6 consists of the following census units in the minor civil division of Auburn: Block 1005, Block 1006, Block 1007, Block 1008, Block 1009, Block 1010, Block 1012, Block 1013, Block 1014, Block 1015, Block 1016, Block 1017, Block 1018, Block 1019, Block 1020, Block 1021, Block 1022 and Block 1023 of Census Tract 104; Census Tract 105; Census Tract 106; and Block Group 2, Block 1009, Block 1010, Block 1011, Block 1012, Block 1013, Block 1015, Block 1016, Block 1017, Block 1018, Block 1019, Block 1020, Block 1021, Block 1022, Block 1023, Block 1052 and Block 1053 of Census Tract 107; and the minor civil divisions of Mechanic Falls and Poland. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

G. Commissioner District Number 7 consists of the minor civil divisions of Leeds, Livermore, Livermore Falls, Minot and Turner. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**2. Creation of Aroostook County Commissioner Districts.** Aroostook County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Amity, Blaine, Bridgewater, Crystal, Dyer Brook, Easton, Fort Fairfield, Glenwood Plantation, Hammond, Haynesville, Hersey, Hodgdon, Houlton, Island Falls, Linneus, Littleton, Ludlow, Macwahoc Plantation, Mars Hill, Merrill, Monticello, Moro Plantation, New Limerick, Oakfield, Orient, Reed Plantation, Sherman, Smyrna, South Aroostook and Weston. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions and the unorganized territories of Ashland, Caribou, Castle Hill, Central Aroostook, Chapman, Mapleton, Presque Isle, Washburn and Westfield. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Allagash, Caswell, Connor Township, Cyr Plantation, Eagle Lake, Fort Kent, Frenchville, Garfield Plantation, Grand Isle, Hamlin, Limestone, Madawaska, Masardis, Nashville Plantation, New Canada, New Sweden, Northwest Aroostook, Perham, Portage Lake, Square Lake,

St. Agatha, St. Francis, St. John Plantation, Stockholm, Van Buren, Wade, Wallagrass, Westmanland, Winterville Plantation and Woodland. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]  
[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**3. Creation of Cumberland County Commissioner Districts.** Cumberland County is divided into the following 5 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Baldwin, Bridgton, Gorham, Scarborough, Sebago and Standish. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions of Casco, Falmouth, Frye Island, Gray, Harrison, Naples, New Gloucester, Raymond and Windham. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions of Brunswick, Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Freeport, Harpswell, Long Island, North Yarmouth, Pownal and Yarmouth. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

D. Commissioner District Number 4 consists of the minor civil divisions of Cape Elizabeth, South Portland, Westbrook and the following census units in the minor civil division of Portland: Block 1012, Block 1013, Block 2005, Block 2006, Block 2007, Block 2008, Block 2009, Block 2010, Block 2013, Block 3000, Block 3001, Block 3002, Block 3003, Block 3004, Block 3005, Block 3006, Block 3007, Block 3008, Block 3009, Block 3010, Block 3012, Block 3013, Block 3019, Block 3020 and Block Group 4 of Census Tract 19; and Block 3008, Block 3009, Block 3010, Block 3011, Block 3012, Block 3013, Block 3014, Block Group 2 and Block Group 4 of Census Tract 21.02. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

E. Commissioner District Number 5 consists of the following census units in the minor civil division of Portland: Census Tract 1; Census Tract 2; Census Tract 3; Census Tract 5; Census Tract 6; Census Tract 10; Census Tract 11; Census Tract 12; Census Tract 13; Census Tract 15; Census Tract 17; Census Tract 18; Block 1000, Block 1001, Block 1002, Block 1003, Block 1004, Block 1005, Block 1006, Block 1007, Block 1008, Block 1009, Block 1010, Block 1011, Block 1014, Block 2000, Block 2001, Block 2002, Block 2003, Block 2004, Block 2011, Block 2012, Block 2014, Block 3011, Block 3014, Block 3015, Block 3016, Block 3017 and Block 3018 of Census Tract 19; Census Tract 20.01; Census Tract 20.02; Census Tract 21.01; Block 3000, Block 3001, Block 3002, Block 3003, Block 3004, Block 3005, Block 3006, Block 3007 and Block Group 1 of Census Tract 21.02; Census Tract 22; Census Tract 23; Block 3000, Block 3001, Block 3002, Block 3003, Block 3014, Block 3016, Block 3017, Block 3018, Block 3019, Block 3020, Block 3021, Block Group 1 and Block Group 2 of Census Tract 24; and Block 0006, Block 0007, Block 0011, Block 0012, Block 0013 and Block 0017 of Census Tract 9900. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**4. Creation of Franklin County Commissioner Districts.** Franklin County is divided into districts as follows.

A. Until November 5, 2024, Franklin County is divided into the following 3 districts.

(1) Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Carthage, Dallas Plantation, Jay, Rangeley Plantation, Sandy River Plantation,

South Franklin, Weld, West Central Franklin and Wilton. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024.

(2) Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions of Chesterville, Farmington and Temple. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024.

(3) Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Avon, Carrabassett Valley, Coplin Plantation, East Central Franklin, Eustis, Industry, Kingfield, New Sharon, New Vineyard, North Franklin, Phillips, Rangeley, Strong and Wyman Township. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022, and again in 2024. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Beginning November 5, 2024, Franklin County is divided into the following 5 districts.

(1) Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Temple and Wilton; and the following census units in the minor civil division of Farmington: Block 4029, Block 4030, Block 4031, Block 4032, Block 4033, Block 4034, Block 4035, Block 4037, Block 4038, Block 4039, Block 4040, Block 4041, Block 4042, Block 4043, Block 4044, Block 4045, Block 4046, Block 4047, Block 4048 and Block 4049 of Census Tract 9712.01; and Block 2000, Block 2001, Block 2002, Block 2003, Block 2004, Block 2005, Block 2006, Block 2007, Block 2008, Block 2009, Block 2010, Block 2011, Block 2012, Block 2013, Block 2014, Block 2015, Block 2016, Block 2017, Block 2018, Block 2019, Block 2020 and Block 2021 of Census Tract 9712.02. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2028 and every 4 years thereafter.

(2) Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the following census units in the minor civil division of Farmington: Block 1000, Block 1001, Block 1002, Block 1003, Block 1004, Block 1005, Block 1006, Block 1007, Block 1008, Block 1009, Block 1010, Block 2000, Block 2001, Block 2002, Block 2003, Block 2004, Block 2005, Block 2006, Block 2007, Block 3000, Block 3001, Block 3002, Block 3003, Block 3004, Block 3005, Block 3006, Block 3007, Block 3008, Block 3009, Block 3010, Block 3011, Block 3012, Block 3013, Block 4000, Block 4001, Block 4002, Block 4003, Block 4004, Block 4005, Block 4006, Block 4007, Block 4008, Block 4009, Block 4010, Block 4011, Block 4012, Block 4013, Block 4014, Block 4015, Block 4016, Block 4017, Block 4018, Block 4019, Block 4020, Block 4021, Block 4022, Block 4023, Block 4024, Block 4025, Block 4026, Block 4027, Block 4028 and Block 4036 of Census Tract 9712.01; and Block 1000, Block 1001, Block 1002, Block 1003, Block 1004, Block 1005, Block 1006, Block 1007, Block 1008, Block 1009, Block 1010, Block 1011, Block 1012, Block 1013, Block 1014, Block 1015, Block 1016, Block 1017, Block 3000, Block 3001, Block 3002, Block 3003, Block 3004, Block 3005, Block 3006, Block 3007, Block 3008, Block 3009, Block 3010, Block 4000, Block 4001, Block 4002, Block 4003, Block 4004, Block 4005, Block 4006, Block 4007, Block 4008, Block 4009, Block 4010, Block 4011, Block 4012, Block 4013, Block 4014, Block 4015, Block 4016, Block 4017, Block 4018, Block 4019, Block 4020, Block 4021, Block 4022, Block 4023, Block 4024, Block 4025, Block 4026, Block 4027, Block 4028, Block 4029 and Block 4030 of Census Tract 9712.02. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2028 and every 4 years thereafter.

(3) Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Avon, Carthage, Coplin Plantation, Eustis, North Franklin, Phillips, Rangeley, Rangeley Plantation, Sandy River Plantation, South Franklin, Strong, Weld and West Central Franklin. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2028 and every 4 years thereafter.

(4) Commissioner District Number 4 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Carrabassett Valley, Dallas Plantation, East Central Franklin, Industry, Kingfield,

New Sharon, New Vineyard and Wyman Township. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2026 and every 4 years thereafter.

(5) Commissioner District Number 5 consists of the minor civil divisions of Chesterville and Jay. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2026 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**5. Creation of Hancock County Commissioner Districts.** Hancock County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Amherst, Aurora, Blue Hill, Central Hancock, East Hancock, Eastbrook, Ellsworth, Gouldsboro, Great Pond, Mariaville, Northwest Hancock, Osborn, Otis, Sorrento, Sullivan, Surry, Waltham and Winter Harbor. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions of Brooklin, Brooksville, Bucksport, Castine, Dedham, Deer Isle, Orland, Penobscot, Sedgwick, Stonington and Verona Island. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Bar Harbor, Cranberry Isles, Franklin, Frenchboro, Hancock, Lamoine, Marshall Island, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor, Swan's Island, Tremont and Trenton. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**6. Creation of Kennebec County Commissioner Districts.** Kennebec County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Augusta, Chelsea, China, Manchester, Sidney, Vassalboro and Windsor. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions of Farmingdale, Fayette, Gardiner, Hallowell, Litchfield, Monmouth, Mount Vernon, Pittston, Randolph, Readfield, Vienna, Wayne, West Gardiner and Winthrop. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Albion, Belgrade, Benton, Clinton, Oakland, Rome, Unity Township, Waterville and Winslow. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**7. Creation of Knox County Commissioner Districts.** Knox County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Rockland, South Thomaston, St. George and Thomaston. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions of Appleton, Cushing, Friendship, Union, Warren and Washington. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Camden, Criehaven, Hope, Isle au Haut, Matinicus Isle Plantation, Musclev Ridge Islands, North Haven, Owls Head, Rockport and Vinalhaven. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**8. Creation of Lincoln County Commissioner Districts.** Lincoln County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, Edgecomb, Southport, Westport Island and Wiscasset. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Bremen, Bristol, Louds Island, Monhegan Plantation, Nobleboro, South Bristol and Waldoboro. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Alna, Damariscotta, Dresden, Hibberts Gore, Jefferson, Newcastle, Somerville and Whitefield. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**9. Creation of Oxford County Commissioner Districts.** Oxford County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Brownfield, Denmark, Fryeburg, Greenwood, Hiram, Lovell, Norway, Porter, South Oxford, Stoneham, Stow, Sweden and Waterford. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Andover, Bethel, Byron, Canton, Dixfield, Gilead, Hanover, Lincoln Plantation, Magalloway Plantation, Mexico, Milton Township, Newry, North Oxford, Peru, Roxbury, Rumford and Upton. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions of Buckfield, Hartford, Hebron, Otisfield, Oxford, Paris, Sumner, West Paris and Woodstock. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**10. Creation of Penobscot County Commissioner Districts.** Penobscot County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Bangor, Brewer, Clifton, Eddington, Holden and Orrington. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions of Carmel, Charleston, Corinna, Corinth, Dexter, Dixmont, Etna, Exeter, Garland, Glenburn, Hampden, Hermon, Hudson, Kenduskeag, Levant, Newburgh, Newport, Plymouth and Stetson. The term of office of the

commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Alton, Argyle Township, Bradford, Bradley, Burlington, Carroll Plantation, Chester, Drew Plantation, East Central Penobscot, East Millinocket, Edinburg, Enfield, Greenbush, Howland, Kingman Township, Lagrange, Lakeville, Lee, Lincoln, Lowell, Mattawamkeag, Maxfield, Medway, Milford, Millinocket, Mount Chase, North Penobscot, Old Town, Orono, Passadumkeag, Patten, Penobscot Indian Island, Prentiss Township, Seboeis Plantation, Springfield, Stacyville, Twombly Ridge Township, Veazie, Webster Plantation, Whitney Township, Winn and Woodville. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**11. Creation of Piscataquis County Commissioner Districts.** Piscataquis County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Abbot, Blanchard, Bowerbank, Guilford, Kingsbury, Monson, Parkman, Sangerville, Shirley, Wellington and Willimantic. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Dover-Foxcroft, Medford, Sebec and Southeast Piscataquis. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Beaver Cove, Brownville, Greenville, Lake View, Milo, Northeast Piscataquis and Northwest Piscataquis. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**12. Creation of Sagadahoc County Commissioner Districts.** Sagadahoc County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Bowdoin and Topsham. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions of Bath and Bowdoinham. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Arrowsic, Georgetown, Perkins Township, Phippsburg, Richmond, West Bath and Woolwich. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**13. Creation of Somerset County Commissioner Districts.** Somerset County is divided into the following 5 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Fairfield and Norridgewock. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Anson, Central Somerset, Highland Plantation, Madison, Mercer, New Portland, Northwest Somerset, Smithfield and Starks. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions of Cambridge, Detroit, Harmony, Palmyra, Pittsfield, Ripley and St. Albans. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

D. Commissioner District Number 4 consists of the minor civil divisions of Cornville and Skowhegan. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

E. Commissioner District Number 5 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Athens, Bingham, Brighton Plantation, Canaan, Caratunk, Dennistown Plantation, Embden, Hartland, Jackman, Moose River, Moscow, Northeast Somerset, Pleasant Ridge Plantation, Seboomook Lake, Solon, The Forks Plantation and West Forks Plantation. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**14. Creation of Waldo County Commissioner Districts.** Waldo County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Belfast, Belmont, Islesboro, Lincolnville, Northport and Waldo. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions of Frankfort, Jackson, Monroe, Prospect, Searsport, Stockton Springs, Swanville and Winterport. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions of Brooks, Burnham, Freedom, Knox, Liberty, Montville, Morrill, Palermo, Searsmont, Thorndike, Troy and Unity. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**15. Creation of Washington County Commissioner Districts.** Washington County is divided into the following 3 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Alexander, Baileyville, Baring, Beddington, Calais, Charlotte, Codyville, Cooper, Crawford, Danforth, Deblois, Grand Lake Stream, Marshfield, Meddybemps, North Washington, Northfield, Passamaquoddy Indian Township, Princeton, Robbinston, Talmadge, Topsfield, Vanceboro, Waite, Wesley and Whitneyville. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions and unorganized territories of Cutler, Dennysville, East Central Washington, East Machias, Eastport, Lubec, Machias, Passamaquoddy Pleasant Point, Pembroke, Perry and Whiting. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions of Addison, Beals, Cherryfield, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Harrington, Jonesboro, Jonesport, Machiasport, Milbridge,



Roque Bluffs and Steuben. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]  
[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

**16. Creation of York County Commissioner Districts.** York County is divided into the following 5 districts.

A. Commissioner District Number 1 consists of the minor civil divisions of Acton, Berwick, Cornish, Lebanon, Limington, Newfield, North Berwick, Parsonsfield, Shapleigh and South Berwick. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

B. Commissioner District Number 2 consists of the minor civil divisions of Arundel, Biddeford, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

C. Commissioner District Number 3 consists of the minor civil divisions of Buxton, Hollis, Old Orchard Beach and Saco. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2022 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

D. Commissioner District Number 4 consists of the minor civil divisions of Alfred, Dayton, Limerick, Lyman, Sanford and Waterboro. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

E. Commissioner District Number 5 consists of the minor civil divisions of Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, Wells and York. The term of office of the commissioner from this district expires in 2024 and every 4 years thereafter. [PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]  
[PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 552, Pt. D, §2 (NEW).

### ARTICLE 3

#### SESSIONS

#### **§71. Sessions; times and places; notice**

**(REPEALED)**

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 696, §4 (RP).

#### **§72. Quorum**

A majority of the commissioners constitutes a quorum. When fewer attend, they may adjourn to a convenient time and place. When no commissioner attends, the clerk may adjourn the meeting. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### ARTICLE 4

**CLERK: COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR****§81. Designation of clerk; duties**

**1. Appointment of clerk; term; clerk pro tempore.** The county commissioners in each county may appoint a suitable person to serve as clerk to the county commissioners. If the county has a county administrator, the commissioners may not appoint a clerk. The clerk of the county commissioners shall be known as the county clerk.

A. The county clerk serves at the will of the county commissioners. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. When a clerk is absent, the clerk may appoint a clerk pro tempore to the commissioners for whose actions the clerk is responsible. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Duties; commissioners' records.** County clerks must be sworn and shall make a record of the actions of the county commissioners. The commissioners shall examine these records and, when correct, shall certify them and they shall be adopted into the records of the county commissioners by the clerk.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§82. County administrator**

The county commissioners of each county may appropriate funds for the hiring of a county administrator. If the county commissioners do not hire a full-time county administrator, then no county employee, other than county commissioners, may perform any of the administrative functions of a county administrator. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Appointment; qualifications.** The county commissioners shall choose the county administrator solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to the actual experience in, or knowledge of, the duties of the office as set forth in the policies established by the board of county commissioners and by law.

A. At the time of appointment, the county administrator need not be a resident of the county, but, while in office, the county administrator may reside outside the county only with the county commissioners' approval. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. A county administrator may not hold any other elective or appointed county office, except as provided in this section. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Compensation; tenure of office.** The county commissioners shall determine the compensation of the county administrator. The county administrator shall hold office for an indefinite term unless otherwise specified by contract. The county commissioners may, for cause, remove or suspend the county administrator in accordance with the procedure for removing or suspending a town manager under section 2633. In the absence or during the disability of the county administrator, the county commissioners may appoint an official of the county to perform the administrator's duties.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Duties.** The county administrator is the chief administrative official of the county and is responsible for the administration of all departments and offices controlled by the county commissioners. The county administrator shall act as the clerk of the county. The county administrator shall act as purchasing agent for all departments and offices of the county, although the county commissioners may require that all purchases greater than a designated amount must be submitted to sealed bid. The county administrator shall attend all meetings of the county commissioners, except when the county administrator's removal or suspension is being considered. The county administrator shall keep the county commissioners and the county legislative delegation informed as to the financial condition of the county and shall collect all data necessary to prepare the budget.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. County commissioners' compensation.**

[PL 2001, c. 667, Pt. A, §47 (RP).]

**5. Cumberland County manager required.** Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, no later than January 1, 1996, the county commissioners of Cumberland County shall hire a full-time county manager, who works under their direction to oversee the implementation of county policy and the day-to-day administration of county operations. The appointment, compensation and tenure of the manager are the same as provided for a county administrator pursuant to subsections 1 and 2. The manager:

A. Is responsible for the administration of all departments and offices controlled by the county commissioners; [PL 1995, c. 380, §2 (NEW).]

B. In conjunction with the county commissioners, department heads and budget committee, shall develop a proposed county budget for the coming year, which must be presented to the commissioners no later than October 1st; [PL 1995, c. 380, §2 (NEW).]

C. Shall keep the county commissioners and the county legislative delegation informed as to the financial condition of the county and collect all data necessary to prepare the budget; [PL 1995, c. 380, §2 (NEW).]

D. Shall attend all meetings of the county commissioners, except when the manager's removal or suspension is being considered; and [PL 1995, c. 380, §2 (NEW).]

E. Shall carry out other administrative duties assigned by the commissioners. [PL 1995, c. 380, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 1995, c. 380, §2 (NEW).]

**6. York County manager required.** Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, no later than January 1, 2002, the county commissioners of York County shall hire a full-time county manager, who works under their direction to oversee the implementation of county policy and the day-to-day administration of county operations. The appointment, compensation and tenure of the manager are the same as provided for a county administrator pursuant to subsections 1 and 2. The manager:

A. Is responsible for the administration of all departments and offices controlled by the county commissioners; [PL 2001, c. 107, §2 (NEW).]

B. In conjunction with the county commissioners, department heads and budget committee, shall develop a proposed county budget for the coming year, which must be presented to the commissioners no later than October 1st; [PL 2001, c. 107, §2 (NEW).]

C. Shall keep the county commissioners and the county legislative delegation informed as to the financial condition of the county and collect all data necessary to prepare the budget; [PL 2001, c. 107, §2 (NEW).]

D. Shall attend all meetings of the county commissioners, except when the manager's removal or suspension is being considered; and [PL 2001, c. 107, §2 (NEW).]

E. Shall carry out other administrative duties assigned by the commissioners. [PL 2001, c. 107, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2001, c. 107, §2 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A2,C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 380, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 107, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 349, §2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 667, §A47 (AMD).

### ARTICLE 5

#### POWERS AND DUTIES

##### §101. Commissioners' duties

The commissioners of each county shall: [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Receipts and expenditures.** Examine, allow and settle accounts of the money of the county; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Representation.** Represent the county; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Manage property and business.** Care for its property and manage its business; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Convey real estate.** By a recorded order, appoint an agent to convey its real estate; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. County ways.** Lay out, alter or discontinue ways; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**6. Keep books and accounts.** Keep their books and accounts on forms and in a manner approved by the Office of the State Auditor; [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 561, §17 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 16, §10 (REV).]

**6-A. Adopt ethics policy.** In their discretion, the county commissioners may adopt an ethics policy governing the conduct of elected and appointed county officials.

[PL 1989, c. 561, §18 (NEW).]

**6-B. Support the State Board of Corrections.**

[PL 2015, c. 335, §6 (RP).]

**7. Other duties.** Perform all other duties required by law.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 561, §§17,18 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 653, Pt. A, §5 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 16, §10 (REV). PL 2015, c. 335, §6 (AMD).

**§102. County commissioners' authority**

The county commissioners have final authority over the operation of all county offices by elected or appointed county officials, except in circumstances for which a County Personnel Board has been established under subchapter VII, article 2 with the powers and duties set forth in that article and in section 501. The county commissioners must act as a board and not on an individual basis in exercising this authority. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §3 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A3,C8,10 (AMD).

**§103. County office hours**

The county commissioners may establish reasonable office hours for offices in the county buildings. County offices, in the discretion of the county commissioners, may be closed in part or in whole on Saturdays. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. County offices of Androscoggin County.**

[PL 2017, c. 212, §1 (RP).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 212, §1 (AMD).

**§104. Execution of process**

Sheriffs and their deputies shall execute all legal processes directed to them by the commissioners. A civil deputy, as defined in section 351, subsection 5, shall serve civil process as directed by the sheriff. [PL 2019, c. 147, §1 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 332, §3 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 147, §1 (AMD).

**§105. Services in condemnation cases**

The county commissioners shall charge \$3 a day and actual traveling expenses for their services in the assessment of damages for land or easement sought to be taken or acquired by private corporations. They must certify these charges and expenses in a bill of items to the district attorney. The district attorney shall collect these sums from the party seeking to exercise the right of eminent domain and immediately pay those sums to the county treasurer. The county treasurer shall pay the actual traveling

expenses to the commissioners when they are collected by the district attorney. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§106. Warrants of distress; actions**

Warrants of distress on judgments legally rendered by the county commissioners may be originally issued within 2 years after judgment and made returnable to the clerk's office within 90 days from their date. New warrants may be issued within 2 years from the return day of the last preceding warrant for any sums remaining unpaid. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Warrants against municipalities.** No warrant may be originally issued against a municipality until 20 days after the county clerk transmits a certificate of rendition of the judgment to the assessors of that municipality.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Interest.** Interest on the damages shall be included and collected by warrants as in executions. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Civil action.** A party, for whose benefit a judgment is rendered by the county commissioners, may recover the amount in a civil action founded on that judgment.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§107. Contracts with municipalities**

In addition to any service authorized by or required of counties in this Title, the county commissioners of each county may develop and contract to provide any service that a municipality may perform. The county commissioners may develop such a service prior to executing a contract with a municipality but, unless otherwise provided for in this Title, may deliver the service only upon a contract with one or more municipalities or others as described in subsection 4. The county commissioners may contract with municipalities, other political subdivisions of the State, regional planning councils, councils of government, quasi-municipal corporations, any agency or instrumentality of the State or private enterprises to enable the county to perform or to assist the county in the performance of all or part of the services contracted for by a municipality. [PL 1997, c. 785, §1 (AMD).]

**1. Municipal action required.** The legislative body of any municipality entering into a contract under this section must take appropriate action by ordinance, resolution or other action pursuant to law before the contract takes effect.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Contents of contract.** Any contract with a municipality must specify the following:

A. Its duration; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Its purpose; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The manner and amount of financing for the contracted services and maintaining a budget; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. The scope and nature of the services to be performed by the county; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. The manner of administering the performance of the contract and the methods and extent of municipal control of that administration; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

F. The manner of acquiring, holding and disposing of real and personal property acquired or used in performing the contract; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

G. Any limitations on the county commissioners' power to contract with other political subdivisions, quasi-municipal corporations, agencies, instrumentalities or enterprises to perform the services specified in the municipal-county contract, including the duties and activities that may be contracted for by the county; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

H. The method of partial or complete termination of the contract and the obligations and responsibilities of each party on termination; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

I. Any other necessary and proper matters. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Filing.** A copy of the contract shall be filed with the clerk of each municipality that is a party to the contract and in the office of the county commissioners.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Municipalities and others served.** The county may provide services to municipalities and other public and private entities in the county or another county. Unless otherwise provided for in this Title, a county may not require municipalities or other entities to subscribe to, contract for or participate in any service under this section.

[PL 1997, c. 785, §1 (NEW).]

**5. Fees.** Except as provided in subsection 6, the cost of developing and providing the service must be borne by those municipalities or other public or private entities using the service or by other means, but may not in any way be borne by the tax for which municipalities are assessed pursuant to section 706.

[PL 2007, c. 105, §1 (AMD).]

**6. Offshore island tax assessment credit.** For the purpose of allowing an offshore island municipality not connected to the mainland by a bridge to contract independently with the county for rural patrol services, the county may credit the qualifying municipality for a portion of the county assessment that would otherwise have been used to provide rural patrol services to the municipality if it were on the mainland. For any such agreement that is entered into, the assessment credit must be annually negotiated by the qualifying municipality and the county commissioners.

[PL 2007, c. 105, §2 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 785, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 105, §§1, 2 (AMD).

#### §108. Charges and rents

**1. Publication charges.** The county commissioners shall set the amount to be charged by the register of probate for the publication of notices required by law. The amount set may not be less than the county's actual cost of providing the publication service, including the actual cost of publication.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Rent for county housing.** The county commissioners shall set the amount of rent to be charged the sheriff or jailer occupying the house or apartment connected with the county jail. The amount of rent must be reasonable, but may not be less than the actual cost of operating and maintaining the house or apartment, including the cost of any fuel and electricity supplied by the county.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

## ARTICLE 6

### BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY

#### §121. County buildings and land; records; parking areas

**1. Buildings.** The county commissioners, in the county seat of their county, may provide a jail and shall keep it in proper repair. The county commissioners, in the county seat of their county, shall provide and keep in repair:

A. Courthouses pursuant to Title 4, section 115, with a suitable room in each for the county law library; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Fireproof buildings of brick or stone or other fire-resistant material, with separate fireproof rooms and suitable alcoves, cases or boxes for each office, for the safekeeping of records and papers belonging to the offices of:

- (1) The register of deeds;
- (2) The register of probate;
- (3) The register of insolvency; and



## (4) The clerk of courts.

A registry that has permanent records located off-site is exempt from this paragraph if all permanent records, either in their original state or on archival-quality microfilm, that are stored off-site are in a secure fire-resistant facility with temperature and humidity controls suitable for long-term preservation, those records temporarily retained at the registry for copying are stored in fire-resistant containers and the registry building meets applicable fire and life safety codes; and [PL 2007, c. 151, §1 (AMD).]

C. Any other necessary buildings. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2007, c. 151, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Acquiring land.** The county commissioners may acquire land by purchase or by condemnation proceedings for the enlargement of the grounds around county buildings. These condemnation proceedings must be in conformity with Title 23, sections 2051 to 2058.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Files and records.** If, in the judgment of the county commissioners, public convenience so requires, they, at the county's expense, may cause the files and records of the probate and other county courts to be rearranged, indexed and docketed, the dockets which are worn or defaced to be renewed and the indexes to be consolidated under the direction of the respective registers and clerks of courts.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Parking areas.** The county commissioners may lay out parking areas on county lands near county buildings and may enact ordinances for the reasonable use of those areas and enforce them by suitable penalties. Any violation of these ordinances is a civil violation.

The county commissioners may authorize a sheriff's deputy, certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy under Title 25, section 2803-A, subsection 8, to represent the county in District Court in the prosecution of alleged violations of unpaid penalties pursuant to an ordinance enacted under this subsection. The county commissioners may delegate to the county's sheriff their power under this subsection to authorize sheriff's deputies to represent the county.

County public parking areas are subject to any applicable requirements of the Maine Human Rights Act, Title 5, chapter 337, subchapter 5.

[PL 2007, c. 41, §1 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A4,C8,10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 733, §10 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 41, §1 (AMD). PL 2007, c. 151, §1 (AMD).

**§122. Location of county buildings; referendum required**

The county commissioners may not remove a county building or erect a new one outside of the county seat, without first notifying the officers of each municipality in the county of their intentions and of the place where they propose to locate it. The municipal officers shall present that proposal to the municipality at its next annual meeting or election for choosing state or municipal officers and receive, sort and count the votes for and against the proposal. They and the clerks shall certify and return the votes to the county clerk. The commissioners shall examine the votes and act according to the decision of a majority. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§123. Inventory of property**

By January 1st of each year, the county commissioners of each county shall make or require an inventory to be made of all property belonging to the county. Copies of the inventory shall be filed in the county commissioners' office by January 1st of each year. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§124. Bids, awards and contracts**

Any contract for construction, renovation or improvement of county buildings or facilities involving a total cost of \$2,500 or more must be awarded by a system of competitive bidding. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

Except for purchases through the State, the county commissioners shall make all purchases over \$2,500 of services, supplies, materials and equipment needed by the county, or any department or agency of the county, by competitive bidding. Title 5, chapter 155, subchapter I-A governs these purchases as far as applicable. Title 5, section 1825-B, subsection 2, paragraph A governs purchases through the State. [PL 1999, c. 14, §1 (AMD).]

The procurement of goods or services pursuant to this section that involves the expenditure of \$10,000 or less may be accepted by oral proposal or bids. [PL 2001, c. 349, §3 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 785, §4 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 14, §1 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 349, §3 (AMD).

**§125. Economic and community development**

**1. Budget authority.** Subject to the provisions of chapter 3, subchapter 1, the county commissioners in each county have the power to raise, appropriate, borrow and expend money for the purposes of county economic and community development, subject to the following provisions and limitations.

A. As used in this section, "county economic and community development" means assisting or encouraging the creation or preservation of new or existing employment opportunities for residents of a county, or any of its municipalities, through one or more of the following activities:

- (1) Development of new sites for the physical location, settlement or resettlement of new or expanded manufacturing, fishing, commercial or other business enterprises to be located within the county, including surveying, payment of related costs for surveying, land acquisition, land use and environmental permitting, engineering, legal services and infrastructure development;
- (2) Constructing or financing the development of new community industrial buildings, as defined in Title 5, section 13120-B, to be located within the county;
- (3) Redevelopment of existing structures located within the county for commercial, industrial or mixed use;

- (4) Construction, financing or operating assistance to necessary publicly owned transportation facilities, including facilities for passenger and cargo transportation;
- (5) Provision of local matching funds for any state or federal transportation project, community development grant or rural development grant to the county or any of its municipalities, intended to achieve purposes substantially similar to those listed in subparagraphs (1) to (4);
- (6) Financial participation in any county economic and community development project organized or funded on a regional basis by 2 or more participating counties. For this purpose, the county commissioners may provide assistance to a regional project to be located in whole or in part outside of that county only upon a finding by the commissioners that the project will confer a substantial economic benefit on the county providing the assistance;
- (7) Funding the annual salary and operating expenses of a county economic development officer, development agency or development office subject to approval by a majority vote of the county budget committee or county advisory budget committee; and
- (8) Necessary contractual services for any of the purposes stated in this paragraph. [PL 2007, c. 321, §1 (AMD).]

B. All borrowing by the county commissioners for the purposes of this section is subject to the following limitations.

- (1) All bonds issued by the county commissioners for the purposes of this section must be approved by a majority vote of the county budget committee or county advisory budget committee. All bonds must be approved prior to issuance by the voters of the county by referendum vote in accordance with section 938, except that a referendum for this purpose may be conducted at any regular or special county election at which the total number of votes cast for and against the proposed bond issue is equal to at least 50% of the total number of votes cast in the county for all gubernatorial candidates in the most recent gubernatorial election.
- (2) The aggregate unpaid principal amount of all bonds issued under this section may not exceed 2% of the most recent taxable valuation of the county, as certified by the State Tax Assessor pursuant to Title 36, section 381, adjusted to 100%.
- (3) A county may not incur debt or issue bonds under this section if such debt or bonds, in combination with other county debt then outstanding, would cause the county to exceed limitations on total county debt otherwise provided by law.
- (4) All bonds issued under this section must be for capital project costs only and may not be used to fund the annual operating or program expenses of any agency, facility, program or office. The commissioners shall deposit the proceeds of any bond issued under this section to a capital project account for the project concerned, established in accordance with section 921. Bond proceeds deposited to a capital project account may be used only for purposes of financing or completing the project concerned and for no other purposes. Any funds remaining in the capital project account upon completion or termination of the project concerned must be used by the commissioners to prepay any debt incurred by the county for that project. If the terms of a particular bond issued under this section prohibit prepayment of the bond, any funds remaining in the capital project account upon completion or termination of the project concerned may be transferred to another capital project account or used to retire other county debt. [PL 2007, c. 321, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2007, c. 321, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Vehicle emissions goals.** In acquiring by purchase or lease light-duty motor vehicles a county shall to the extent practicable do so in a manner designed to increase by 2035 the percentage of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and zero-emission vehicles acquired annually to 100% of the annual acquisitions of light-duty motor vehicles.

For purposes of this subsection, "light-duty motor vehicle" means any vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds and "plug-in hybrid electric vehicle" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 10126, subsection 1, paragraph D.

[PL 2021, c. 693, §5 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2003, c. 179, §1 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 321, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 693, §5 (AMD).

### SUBCHAPTER 3

#### COUNTY TREASURERS

#### ARTICLE 1

#### ELECTION AND TENURE

##### §151. Election; vacancy

Except as provided in section 156, the voters of each county shall elect a county treasurer. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Qualifications.** The county treasurer must be a resident of the county. Neither the Attorney General, district attorney, clerk of courts, sheriff of the county nor any deputy sheriff may be county treasurer.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Term.** The county treasurer shall hold office for 4 years from the first day of January following the election and until another is chosen and qualified in the county treasurer's place.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Vacancy.** If a person chosen treasurer as provided in subsection 1 declines to accept or a vacancy occurs by reason of death, resignation, removal from the county, permanent incapacity or for any other reason, the Governor may appoint a suitable resident of the county to serve as treasurer. When that person has accepted the office, provided a bond and been sworn, that person is treasurer until the first day of January following the next biennial election, at which election a treasurer must be chosen for the remainder of the term, if any; but, in any event, that person holds office until another is chosen and qualified.

A. In the case of a vacancy in the term of a treasurer who was nominated by primary election before the general election, the treasurer appointed by the Governor must be enrolled in the same political party as the treasurer whose term is vacant. In making the appointment, the Governor shall choose from any recommendations submitted to the Governor by the county committee of the political party from which the appointment is to be made. [PL 1995, c. 245, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 1995, c. 683, §5 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 245, §4 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 683, §5 (AMD).

##### §152. Conduct of election; notice to county commissioners

The meetings for the election of treasurers shall be conducted and returns made as provided in Title 33, section 602. The Governor shall immediately notify the county commissioners of the county where the person resides of the election. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §153. Bond required

The person elected under section 152 and accepting the office of county treasurer shall give bond to the county for the faithful discharge of duties in the sum ordered by the commissioners and with such sureties as they approve in writing on the bond. Surety and fidelity insurance coverage provided by a public sector self-funded risk pool organized pursuant to section 2253 in the sum ordered by the commissioners is deemed to comply with the requirements of this section. [PL 1999, c. 22, §1 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 22, §1 (AMD).

#### §154. Salaries

County treasurers shall receive annual salaries as set forth in section 2. The deputy treasurer shall receive an annual salary as established by the treasurer and approved by the county commissioners. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §155. Androscoggin County treasurer to be full time

The office of treasurer of Androscoggin County is a full-time office. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §156. Creation of position of appointed county treasurer

**1. County commissioners' decision.** Notwithstanding sections 151 and 152, the county commissioners may decide to abolish the position of elected county treasurer and replace it with an appointed county treasurer. This decision is not effective until approved by the voters of the county under subsection 3.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Petition by voters.** On the written petition of a number of voters equal to at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the county at the last gubernatorial election, the county commissioners, by order, shall provide for the abolition of the position of elected county treasurer and its replacement with an appointed county treasurer in the form and manner provided in this section.

A. The petition procedure of section 1321, subsection 3, shall be used in this alternative method except that the legend at the top of each petition form shall read as follows:

"County of \*\* ..... \*\*

Each of the undersigned voters respectively requests the county commissioners to abolish the position of elected county treasurer and replace it with a county treasurer appointed by the county commissioners." [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The procedure after the petition is filed is the same as that under section 1321, subsection 4. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, Pt. 2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).] [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Election procedure.** Within 30 days after a decision under subsection 1 or the receipt of a certificate or final determination of sufficiency under subsection 2, paragraph B, the county commissioners, by order, shall submit the question of the abolition of the position of elected county treasurer and its replacement with an appointed county treasurer to the voters of the county at the next regular or special statewide election. The question to be submitted to the voters shall be in substance as follows:

"Shall the position of elected county treasurer be abolished and replaced with a treasurer appointed by the county commissioners?"

If a majority of those voting on this question vote in the affirmative, the position of elected county treasurer shall be abolished after the term of the current elected county treasurer expires and the county commissioners shall appoint a treasurer under subsection 4.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Term; compensation; qualifications.** Upon abolition of the position of elected county treasurer under this section, the county commissioners shall appoint a treasurer to serve at their will and, notwithstanding section 154, with the compensation they set. The treasurer must be qualified in matters of business administration and finance. The appointed treasurer has all authority granted to treasurers under this subchapter and is subject to all the requirements of this subchapter.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**ARTICLE 2**

**DEPUTIES**

**§161. Deputy treasurers; duties**

Each county treasurer may appoint a deputy treasurer for that treasurer's county, subject to the requirements of section 501. The deputy treasurer shall assist the treasurer in performing the duties of the treasurer's office. The deputy treasurer shall give bond to the county for the faithful discharge of duties in the sum ordered by the county commissioners and with such sureties as they approve in writing

on the bond, the premium of the bond to be met by the county. The deputy treasurer shall act as treasurer in the event of a vacancy until a treasurer is chosen and qualified under section 151. Surety and fidelity insurance coverage provided by a public sector self-funded risk pool organized pursuant to section 2253 in the sum ordered by the commissioners is deemed to comply with the requirements of this section. [PL 1999, c. 22, §2 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 22, §2 (AMD).

#### **§162. Provisional treasurer**

If the offices of county treasurer and deputy treasurer are both vacant, the county commissioners shall appoint a provisional treasurer who shall serve until a treasurer is chosen and qualified under section 151. The provisional treasurer has all the authority granted to treasurers under this subchapter and is subject to all the requirements of this subchapter. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### ARTICLE 3

#### DUTIES GENERALLY

#### **§171. Deposit or investment of county funds**

The treasurer, with the approval of the county commissioners, may deposit the money received for the use of the county in any of the banking institutions or trust companies or mutual savings banks organized under the laws of this State or in any national bank or banks located in the State. When, in the treasurer's judgment, there is money in the treasury that is not needed to meet current obligations, the treasurer, with the advice and consent of the county commissioners, may invest any amount considered advisable in bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness or other obligations of the United States which mature within one year from the date of investment or shares of an investment company registered under the federal Investment Company Act of 1940, whose shares are registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, only if the investments of the investment company are limited to obligations of the United States or any agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States or repurchase agreements secured by obligations of the United States or any agency or instrumentality, corporate or otherwise, of the United States. [PL 1993, c. 651, §3 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 651, §3 (AMD).

#### **§172. Receipt of costs in favor of State**

Costs in all civil actions in the name of the State, paid before execution issues, shall be paid to the clerk of the court where the action is pending. The clerk shall pay these costs, without deduction, to the county treasurer. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§173. Payments out of treasury**

**1. Payment on written order of commissioners.** The county treasurer shall apply all money received for the use of the county toward defraying its expenses, as the county commissioners direct by written order.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Itemization required; public record.** The treasurer may not pay out any funds for an account or claim against the county unless the account or claim is itemized and declared to be a public record. Notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 4-A, any violation of this subsection is a Class E crime, punishable by a fine of not more than \$300 or by imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§174. Enforcing payment of taxes; collection of accounts due counties**

**1. Enforcing payment of taxes.** The county treasurer may enforce the payment of taxes in the manner prescribed for the Treasurer of State.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Charging off accounts.** The county treasurer may charge off the county's books of account, in whole or in part, any accounts receivable, including taxes, that the county commissioners certify as impracticable of realization.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**ARTICLE 4**

**RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS**

**§181. Method of accounting; report to commissioners**

The county treasurer shall keep the books and accounts on forms and in the manner approved by the Office of the State Auditor. The treasurer shall report all county receipts and payments to the commissioners of the county. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 2013, c. 16, §10 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 16, §10 (REV).

**§182. Accounts to commissioners**



Each county treasurer shall provide the commissioners of the county with the following. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Annual accounting of county books.** The county treasurer shall prepare and deliver the annual account as treasurer to the county clerk. This account shall be enclosed with the estimates for county taxes made by the county commissioners and sent to the Secretary of State. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Account of money or effects.** Every treasurer holding money or effects belonging to the county, annually and more often if required, shall provide an account of the money or effects to the county commissioners for adjustment. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Account of federal money for use of jails.** The county treasurer shall receive, for the county, all money paid by the United States for the use and keeping of county jails and account for that money according to law. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §183. Annual statement of financial standing

At the end of each year, in cooperation with the commissioners, each treasurer shall make a statement of the financial condition of the county and shall publish in pamphlet form a reasonable number of copies for distribution among its citizens. This statement must show in detail all money received into and paid out of the county treasury, including a statement in detail of: [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Unclaimed inheritances.** All sums received under Title 18-C, section 3-914; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §85 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

**2. Division among accounts.** The division of money among general, special and capital reserve accounts and the amounts remaining in each account; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Federal funds.** All federal funds received; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Facts and statistics.** Other facts and statistics necessary to exhibit the true state of the county's finances, including the number of weeks' board and expense of clothing furnished prisoners. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. C, §85 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

## SUBCHAPTER 4

### CLERKS

#### §201. Clerical help

In all county offices, there is allowed for clerk hire the amount authorized by the county commissioners. The county commissioners shall determine the salary of all clerks after receiving a recommendation from the county official under whom the clerk is employed. The county treasurer may pay weekly or biweekly, at the discretion of the commissioners, to the clerks employed by the county the wages to which they are entitled. The county commissioners shall certify the names of the clerks to the county treasurer. The county commissioners may provide for a county pay scale, vacations and sick leave for clerical help. [PL 2005, c. 79, §2 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A5,C8,C10 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 79, §2 (AMD).

## SUBCHAPTER 5

### DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

#### ARTICLE 1

#### ELECTION AND TENURE

#### §251. Election; qualifications

District attorneys shall be elected as provided in this section. They shall enter office on the first day of January following their election. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Election.** The district attorneys shall be elected on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November in every 4th year, by the voters of the respective prosecutorial districts. The votes shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in the same manner as votes for Representatives. The names of the persons voted for, the number of votes for each and the whole number of ballots received shall be recorded by the clerk of each municipality within the prosecutorial district. The clerk shall send true copies of these names and totals, sealed and attested as returns of votes for Senators, to the Secretary of State.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Qualifications.** Only an attorney who is a member in good standing of the bar of the State and who resides in the prosecutorial district may be elected or appointed district attorney. Removal from the prosecutorial district or disbarment or suspension from the practice of law vacates the office. For purposes of this subsection, a person is a "member in good standing of the bar of the State" if that person is admitted to the practice of law in this State, is presently registered with the Board of Overseers of the Bar as an active practitioner and is not currently disbarred or suspended from practice in this State pursuant to Title 4, chapter 17, subchapter 2 or the Maine Bar Rules.

[PL 2019, c. 85, §1 (AMD).]

**3. Term of office.** The term of office for a district attorney is 4 years, except when one is elected to fill out an unexpired term, in which case it is for the remainder of the unexpired term. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 85, §1 (AMD).

#### §252. Vacancies in office

A vacancy in the office of district attorney, because of expiration of the term of office, death, permanent incapacity, removal from office under section 257, removal from the prosecutorial district, or otherwise, shall be filled under this section, except as provided in section 253. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Vacancies caused by expiration of the term.** Vacancies occurring by expiration of the term of office shall be filled by election in that year as provided in section 251. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Vacancies caused by other reasons.** When no person is elected or a vacancy happens in the office of district attorney, other than as provided in subsection 1, the Governor shall appoint a competent attorney, a resident of the prosecutorial district affected, to serve as a substitute district attorney until the first day of January following the next biennial election. At that election, a person shall be elected to the office of district attorney to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. When the office of district attorney becomes vacant after the first day of October in the 2nd year after the election of a district attorney under section 251, a new election shall not be held to fill the vacancy, but the substitute district attorney shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

A. In the case of a vacancy in the term of a district attorney who was nominated by primary election before the general election, the district attorney appointed by the Governor must be enrolled in the same political party as the district attorney whose term is vacant. In making the appointment, the Governor shall choose from any recommendations submitted by the county committee or committees of the political party from which the appointment is to be made. [PL 1995, c. 245, §5 (AMD).]

[PL 1995, c. 245, §5 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 245, §5 (AMD).

#### §253. Military or naval service; substitutes

Whenever a district attorney during the district attorney's term of office in time of war, contemplated war or emergency, enlists, enrolls, is called or drafted into the military service of the United States, that district attorney is not deemed to have thereby resigned from or abandoned the office; nor is the district attorney removable from that office during military service except that the term of office may not be held to have been lengthened because of this section. From the time of induction into service, the district attorney is regarded as on leave of absence without pay from the office and the Governor shall appoint a competent attorney, a resident of the same prosecutorial district, to fill the office while the district attorney is in the federal service, but not for a longer period than the remaining portion of the district attorney's term. During the period of military or naval service, the Treasurer of State shall pay to the substitute attorney a salary at the same rate as the rate of pay of the

district attorney and amounts so paid shall be deducted from the salary of the district attorney. The attorney so appointed to fill the temporary vacancy has the title of "substitute district attorney" and possesses all the rights and powers and is subject to all the duties and obligations of the district attorney. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §254. Prosecutorial districts

**1. Prosecutorial District Number 1.** There shall be one district attorney for York County, which shall be known as "Prosecutorial District Number 1." The district attorney shall be elected by the voters of York County in the manner set forth in section 251.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Prosecutorial District Number 2.** There shall be one district attorney for Cumberland County, which shall be known as "Prosecutorial District Number 2." The district attorney shall be elected by the voters of Cumberland County in the manner set forth in section 251.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Prosecutorial District Number 3.** There shall be one district attorney for Oxford, Franklin and Androscoggin Counties, which shall be known as "Prosecutorial District Number 3." The district attorney shall be elected by the voters of Oxford, Franklin and Androscoggin Counties in the manner set forth in section 251.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Prosecutorial District Number 4.** There shall be one district attorney for Kennebec and Somerset Counties, which shall be known as "Prosecutorial District Number 4." The district attorney shall be elected by the voters of Kennebec and Somerset Counties in the manner set forth in section 251.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Prosecutorial District Number 5.** There shall be one district attorney for Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties, which shall be known as "Prosecutorial District Number 5." The district attorney shall be elected by the voters of Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties in the manner set forth in section 251.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**6. Prosecutorial District Number 6.** There shall be one district attorney for Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and Waldo Counties, which shall be known as "Prosecutorial District Number 6." The district attorney shall be elected by the voters of Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and Waldo Counties in the manner set forth in section 251.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**7. Prosecutorial District Number 7.** There shall be one district attorney for Hancock and Washington Counties, which shall be known as "Prosecutorial District Number 7." The district attorney shall be elected by the voters of Hancock and Washington Counties in the manner set forth in section 251.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**8. Prosecutorial District Number 8.** There shall be one district attorney for Aroostook County, which shall be known as "Prosecutorial District Number 8." The district attorney shall be elected by the voters of Aroostook County in the manner set forth in section 251.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §255. District attorney salaries

**1. Annual salary.** The District Attorney for each of the prosecutorial districts shall be within salary range 90 with the step within that salary range to be determined by the Attorney General, subject to the approval of the Governor.

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. O, §18 (RPR).]

**2. Biweekly payments.** The district attorneys and their assistants shall receive their annual salaries from the State Treasury in biweekly payments on a date to be determined by the State Controller and in a sum which, in a year aggregate, will most nearly equal the annual salary.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### 3. Additional sums.

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. O, §19 (RP).]

#### 4. Prior service.

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. O, §19 (RPR).]

**5. Limitation.** The salary of any district attorney may not exceed that of a Justice of the Superior Court.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 501, §§O18,19 (AMD).

#### §256. Full-time district attorneys

All district attorneys and assistant district attorneys designated as full-time assistants are full-time officers of the State. During their terms of office, they may not: [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Appear as counsel.** Appear as counsel in any civil or criminal case or controversy before the Supreme Judicial Court, Superior Courts or District Courts of the State or comparable courts in any other state or before the United States District Court or at any administrative hearing held by any state or United States agency other than in their capacity as district attorney; or

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Private practice of law.** Engage in the private practice of law nor be a partner or associate of any person engaged in the private practice of law nor be a member or employee of a professional association engaged in the private practice of law.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §257. Removal from office

The Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court have jurisdiction to remove any district attorney from office, by majority vote of the justices sitting, upon complaint filed with the court by the Attorney General, and after notice and hearing, as provided in this section. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Expedited proceeding.** Proceedings under this section shall be expedited insofar as practicable and shall take precedence over all other matters except requests for opinions of the justices and petitions for writs of habeas corpus.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Complaint; application of court rules.** The complaint in a proceeding under this section shall contain a short and plain statement of facts showing that grounds for removal exist. The proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure and the Maine Rules of Evidence, except that:

A. Discovery procedures may be used only by order of the court on motion for cause shown; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The court may modify any rule or restrict its application as is necessary or appropriate to expedite the proceeding and ensure that the court is as fully informed of the relevant and material facts as practicable. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]  
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Removal.** If a majority of the justices sitting finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that the respondent district attorney has violated a statute or is not performing the duties of office faithfully and efficiently, and finds in consequence that removal from office is necessary in the public interest, judgment to that effect shall be entered, and the respondent shall thereby be removed from office as district attorney.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

## ARTICLE 2

## ASSISTANTS AND SUBSTITUTES

### §271. Appointment of temporary substitutes

When the district attorney does not attend a criminal session or the office is vacant, the court may appoint an attorney to perform duties during the session and allow a reasonable compensation to be paid from the county treasury, in the county where the appointment is made. The court shall notify the Attorney General who shall deduct that amount from the district attorney's salary and forward it to the county treasurer. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A6,C8,C10 (AMD).

### §272. Assistant district attorneys

**1. Appointment.** Each district attorney shall appoint assistant district attorneys, one or more of whom may be full-time, to serve at the district attorney's will. The district attorney shall designate whether each assistant district attorney will serve full-time or part-time when appointed.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Duties.** The assistants shall take the oath prescribed for district attorneys and assist the district attorney in the ordinary duties of that office, in the drawing of indictments, in the hearing of complaints before the grand juries and in the preparation and trial of criminal causes. They, when directed by the district attorney, shall act as counsel for the State in the trial of complaints before Judges of the District Court and Justices of the Superior Court and in the prosecution of appeals before the Supreme Judicial Court.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Compensation.** The compensation of deputy and assistant district attorneys shall be fixed by the district attorney, subject to the approval of the Attorney General and the Governor. For purposes of compensation and benefits, deputy and assistant district attorneys shall be treated comparably to assistant attorneys general.

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. O, §20 (RPR).]

**4. Deputy district attorney.** Each district attorney may designate one full-time assistant district attorney or, if there is no full-time assistant district attorney, one part-time assistant district attorney to be the deputy district attorney. In the absence of the district attorney, the deputy shall act in the district attorney's place and has the authority, duties and responsibilities of the district attorney.

[PL 1995, c. 39, §1 (AMD).]

**5. Staff.** Each district attorney shall be allowed sufficient sums to ensure an adequate staff of assistants to screen, process and investigate complaints, to assist law enforcement agencies, to conduct trials in the District and Superior Courts, to prosecute appeals in the Supreme Judicial Court and to carry out all other duties and responsibilities.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**6. Allowance for compensation.**

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §7 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. O, §21 (RP); PL 1989, c. 878, Pt. D, §10 (RP).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A7,C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 501, §§O20,21 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 878, §D10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 39, §1 (AMD).

### ARTICLE 3

#### DUTIES

##### §281. District attorney operations

**1. Expenses allowed.** County commissioners shall allow to the district attorney serving the county sufficient funds for all office expense, clerk hire and travel, including, but not limited to, funds for:

A. Consultation and services of experts; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Rendition of prisoners; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Training and reference books and treatises which may aid the district attorney and staff in the prosecution of criminal matters. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Office space.** The county commissioners shall also provide to the district attorney serving the county office space suitable for the performance of the duties of office, including sufficient private area for research, conferences and meetings with officers, witnesses, complainants and citizens. If office space is not available on county property, the county commissioners shall provide sufficient funds to the district attorney for the rental of suitable quarters at locations convenient to courthouses within the county.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

##### §282. Civil proceedings

**1. Representation of counties.** The county commissioners shall immediately transmit to the district attorney serving the county any writs, summonses or other processes served upon the county or commissioners. The district attorney for each prosecutorial district shall appear for each county within the district for which the district attorney was elected, under the direction of the county commissioners for each county within that district, in all actions and other civil proceedings in which any county within the district is a party or is interested, or in which the official acts of the county commissioners are called in question, in all the courts of the State, and in such actions and proceedings before any other tribunal



when requested by the commissioners. The district attorney shall prosecute or direct the prosecution of all such actions and proceedings. The county commissioners may employ other counsel if in their judgment the public interest so requires.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Traffic infractions.** The district attorney, or someone acting under the district attorney's direction, shall prosecute all traffic infraction cases and shall be present at the trial of any such case.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Civil actions; State as party.** The district attorney shall prosecute to final judgment and execution all civil cases in which the State is a party in any county within the district attorney's prosecutorial district and shall institute proceedings against sureties on any recognizance upon which the principal and sureties have been defaulted, before the term next succeeding that at which the default was entered upon the docket of the court, unless by order in open court the presiding justice grants a delay in proceedings against the sureties.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3-A. Civil violations.** Unless otherwise provided by law, the district attorney shall prosecute all Title 12 civil violations relating to marine resources laws or inland fisheries and wildlife laws in any county within the district attorney's prosecutorial district and shall be present at the trial of any such case.

[PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF).]

**4. Compensation.** For the services mentioned, the district attorney may receive no compensation other than the salary from the State, except actual expenses when performing those services. Those expenses shall be audited by the county commissioners and paid from the county treasury.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Limitation.** This section does not relate to or give the district attorney control of litigation in which any county within the prosecutorial district is not financially interested although the official acts of the county commissioners may be called in question.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 421, §A2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 421, §C1 (AFF).

### §283. Criminal proceedings

The district attorney shall attend all criminal terms held in the counties within the prosecutorial district for which the district attorney was elected and act for the State in all cases in which the State or county is an interested party. Unless the district attorney makes an order of dismissal under section 284, the district attorney or someone acting under the district attorney's direction shall prosecute all criminal cases and shall be present at the trial of any such case before the District Court of any of the counties within the district. If the Attorney General is absent from a term in any of the counties, the district attorney shall perform the Attorney General's duties in state cases, in any of the counties, under directions from the Attorney General. The district attorney shall appear and act for the State with the Attorney General in the Law Court in all state cases coming into that court from any of the counties. No additional compensation may accrue to the district attorney for performing these duties. [PL 1987,

c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §284. Dismissal of cases

**1. Civil cases.** In order to dismiss civil cases, the district attorney must sign a written order of dismissal together with a statement of the reasons for dismissal upon the back of the writ or complaint in those cases. This order of dismissal does not take effect unless approved in writing by the justice presiding at the term when the dismissal is made.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Criminal cases.** The district attorney may dismiss criminal cases in such manner and under such circumstances as the Supreme Judicial Court may provide by rule.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §285. Collection of fines and costs; examination of sheriff's bond

**1. Enforce collection of fines; move examination of sheriff's bond.** For counties within the district attorney's prosecutorial district, the district attorney shall:

A. Enforce the collection and payment to the county treasurers of all fines, forfeitures and costs accruing to the State and the faithful performance of their duties by sheriffs and constables and inform the court of their defaults in this respect; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Annually move the county commissioners of each of the counties within the prosecutorial district, at their respective meetings immediately following the 3rd Tuesday of June, to examine and consider the sufficiency of the bond of the sheriff for their county. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Civil violation.** If the district attorney neglects either of these duties, the district attorney commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$100 may be adjudged. This forfeiture is to be recovered in a civil action in the name of the Treasurer of State.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §286. Restrictions and obligations

The district attorney is under the same restrictions as to fees and the same obligations as to witnesses as imposed on the Attorney General by Title 5, sections 201 and 205. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §287. Physical examination of crime victims

**1. Payment of expenses by district attorney.** Except as provided in subsection 2, in all cases reported to a law enforcement officer of sexual crimes against minors or assault when serious bodily injury has been inflicted, the office of the district attorney of the county in which the alleged crime occurred shall pay the expenses of a physical examination of the victim conducted for the purpose of obtaining evidence for the prosecution. Pursuant to Title 5, section 3360-M, the Victims' Compensation Board shall pay the expenses of forensic examinations for alleged victims of gross sexual assault. [PL 1999, c. 719, §5 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 719, §11 (AFF).]

**2. Limitation.** The district attorney is required to pay the expenses for the physical examination of a victim in accordance with subsection 1 only in the absence of medical insurance or other 3rd-party coverage of the expenses of examination and only from a fund or account appropriated for that purpose. The office of the district attorney is not liable for the payment of any charges, costs or fees for an examination under subsection 1 until the district attorney has received copies of all reports and records pertaining to the examination, if the copies have been requested. [PL 1991, c. 101 (RPR).]

**2-A. Drug and alcohol testing.** Notwithstanding subsections 1 and 2 and Title 5, section 3360-M, the district attorney shall pay the expense of any analysis of a drug or alcohol test performed as part of a forensic examination of an alleged victim of gross sexual assault when the purpose of the analysis is to obtain evidence for the prosecution. [PL 1999, c. 719, §6 (NEW); PL 1999, c. 719, §11 (AFF).]

**3. Medical personnel not liable for furnishing reports, records or testimony.** A physician, nurse, hospital, clinic or any other person, firm or corporation attending a victim under subsection 1 is not liable in damages or otherwise for providing reports or records, copies of reports or records or for their testimony relating to any examination performed under this section when those reports, records or testimony are provided to a district attorney, a law enforcement officer or a court for the purpose of prosecuting the alleged crime, whether or not the reports, records or testimony are provided with the written authorization of the victim examined under this section. [PL 1999, c. 719, §7 (AMD); PL 1999, c. 719, §11 (AFF).]

#### **4. Standardized kit for evidence collection in cases of gross sexual assault.**

[PL 1999, c. 719, §8 (RP); PL 1999, c. 719, §11 (AFF).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 101 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 27, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 333, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 719, §§5-8 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 719, §11 (AFF).

#### §288. Disclosure of minor victims of sexual offenses

The Legislature finds that publicity given to the identity of minor victims of sexual offenses causes intense shame and humiliation for which abused children are particularly ill-prepared and may cause severe and permanent emotional harm to the victim of such an offense. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2

(NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

Therefore district attorneys, their assistants and employees and other law enforcement officials shall refrain from any unnecessary pretrial public disclosure of information that may identify a minor victim of an offense under Title 17-A, chapter 11 or 12 or Title 17-A, section 556. [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. C, §2 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 711, §C2 (AMD).

#### **§289. Investigation of child abuse cases**

Unless a written agreement exists between a law enforcement agency and a district attorney concerning primary responsibility for investigating any of the following offenses, the district attorney may direct the investigation of any offense under Title 17-A, chapter 11 or 12, or Title 17-A, sections 207, 208 and 556, when a victim may not have attained the victim's 18th birthday, and may designate, by geographical boundaries or otherwise, a particular law enforcement agency to have primary responsibility for that investigation. [PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. C, §3 (AMD).]

Any case involving the sexual or physical abuse of children which is discovered by or reported to any law enforcement department or officer shall be immediately reported by that department or officer to the appropriate district attorney or assistant district attorney or, in their absence, to the Attorney General or one of the Attorney General's assistants. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 711, §C3 (AMD).

#### **§290. Investigators; appointments and removal**

The district attorney may appoint in one or more counties of the prosecutorial district, subject to the requirements of section 501, full-time or part-time investigators, whose duties are to enforce the criminal laws in the county. [PL 2001, c. 686, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

**1. Qualifications for appointment.** To be eligible for appointment, an investigator must be a law enforcement officer who has met the requirements of Title 25, section 2804-C and is certified as a full-time law enforcement officer.

[PL 2001, c. 686, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

**2. Powers.** An investigator has the statutory powers of a deputy sheriff in the county in which the investigator is appointed. An investigator's powers may include those under sections 404 and 405.

[PL 2001, c. 686, Pt. C, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 686, §C1 (NEW).

#### **§291. Confidential attorney-client communications**

By January 1, 2024, each district attorney shall adopt a written policy for the protection of confidential attorney-client communications by employees and agents of the district attorney's office, which must include, at a minimum, processes to protect and ensure confidentiality of attorney-client communications and processes to be followed in the event that there is a breach of attorney-client confidentiality. [PL 2023, c. 394, Pt. A, §12 (NEW).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 2023, c. 394, Pt. A, §12 (NEW).

## SUBCHAPTER 6

## SHERIFFS AND OFFICERS

## ARTICLE 1

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**§351. Definitions**

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Deputy.** "Deputy" means either a full-time or part-time county law enforcement officer appointed under section 381.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Full-time deputy.** "Full-time deputy" means a deputy who is compensated under section 386, subsection 1, and who is employed in county law enforcement for at least 40 hours a week.

[PL 1997, c. 44, §1 (AMD).]

**3. Part-time deputy.** "Part-time deputy" means a deputy who is compensated under section 386, subsection 2, and who does not work more than the maximum amount allowed under that subsection in any one calendar or fiscal year while performing county law enforcement duties.

[PL 1997, c. 44, §1 (AMD).]

**4. Special deputy.** "Special deputy" means a person appointed under section 382 who may exercise the powers of a deputy only when a state of war or emergency exists.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Civil deputy.** "Civil deputy" means a deputy who meets the requirements for a civil deputy adopted by the sheriff and has been designated by the sheriff to enforce civil laws and serve civil process.

[PL 2017, c. 332, §4 (NEW).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 44, §1 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 332, §4 (AMD).

**§352. Pension for dependents**

If a sheriff or deputy dies as a result of injury received in the line of duty, the spouse or, if none, the minor child or children, of the sheriff or deputy shall receive a pension equal to 1/2 of the pay of the sheriff or deputy at the time of death, but in no case may the pension be less than \$1,000 annually. This pension shall be paid to the spouse until the spouse dies or remarries and to a child or children until they die or reach the age of 18 years. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

The county commissioners of each county shall pay these pensions from county funds. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§353. Officer not to act as attorney or draw papers; employee of jailer not to act as judge or attorney**

An officer may not appear before any court as attorney or adviser of any party in an action or draw any writ, complaint, declaration, citation, process or plea for any other person; all such acts are void. A person employed by the keeper of a jail in any capacity may not exercise any power or duty of a judicial officer or act as attorney for any person confined in the jail; all such acts are void. Beginning April 15, 2006, if commissioned as a notary public and authorized to do so by the sheriff, an employee of a jail, other than a corrections officer or a deputy sheriff, may, without fee, exercise any power or duty of a notary public for any person confined in the jail. [PL 2013, c. 147, §45 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A8,C8,C10 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 541, §2 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 541, §3 (AFF). PL 2013, c. 147, §45 (AMD).

#### **§354. Uniforms**

**1. Uniforms provided.** Every county shall furnish one uniform to the sheriff and to each full-time deputy, sufficient to identify them as officers of the law. If the county commissioners approve, the county may provide more than one uniform for each. The sheriffs shall require each deputy, while engaged in the enforcement of Title 29-A, section 105 or 1760, to wear a uniform as required by this section.

[PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §126 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 (AFF); PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. C, §15 (AFF).]

**2. Labor disputes.** No deputy or special deputy may wear or display a uniform or badge that identifies the deputy or special deputy as a public law enforcement officer at the site of a labor dispute, strike or lockout, except while on active duty in the public service and while traveling to and from public work.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §A126 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 65, §A153,C15 (AFF).

#### **§355. Political activities**

**1. Sheriff.** No sheriff may directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce or command any county employee or deputy to pay, lend or contribute anything of value to, or to engage in any political service or activity on behalf of, a party, committee, organization, agency or person for political purposes.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Full-time deputies.** A full-time deputy may not hold any other elective or appointive county office or a state office.

[PL 1995, c. 18, §1 (AMD).]

**3. Sheriffs and deputies.** No sheriff or deputy, whether a full-time, part-time or chief deputy, may directly or indirectly, solicit or receive, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting or receiving any assessment, subscription, contribution or political service, whether voluntary or involuntary, for any political purpose from any person, except that while off duty and not in uniform a sheriff or deputy may engage in political activities relating to nonpartisan municipal, school board or special district elections and may solicit or receive contributions or political services for the purpose of electing that sheriff or deputy to a political office.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Official duties.** Official duties undertaken solely to preserve the public peace and the order and security of polling places are not political services or activities.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Rights of voting and free expression.** Sheriffs or deputies retain the right to vote as they choose, to express opinions on political subjects or candidates and to attend and vote at party caucuses and conventions.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§A9,C8,C10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 18, §1 (AMD).

## ARTICLE 2

### ELECTION AND TENURE; BOND

#### §371. Election or appointment

**(REPEALED)**

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 156, §1 (RP). PL 1995, c. 245, §6 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 683, §6 (RP).

#### §371-A. Election or appointment; minimum qualifications

**(REPEALED)**

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1995, c. 156, §2 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 683, §7 (RP).

#### §371-B. Selection; qualifications

**1. Manner of election or appointment.** Sheriffs are elected or appointed and hold their offices according to the Constitution of Maine. Their election must be conducted and determined as is provided for county commissioners. Sheriffs take office on the first day of January following their election.

[PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §6 (RPR); PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §11 (AFF).]

**2. Filling vacancies.** Vacancies in the office of sheriff caused by death, resignation, removal from the county, permanent incapacity or any other reason must be filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine. In the case of a vacancy in the term of a sheriff who was nominated by primary election before the general election the sheriff appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy until a successor is chosen

at election must be enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant. In making the appointment, the Governor shall choose from any recommendations submitted to the Governor by the county committee of the political party from which the appointment is made.  
[PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §6 (RPR); PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §11 (AFF).]

**3. Minimum qualifications for officers.** A person may not be appointed to the office of sheriff, be a candidate for election to the office of sheriff or serve as sheriff of any county in the State unless the candidate meets the following qualifications:

A. The candidate swears to or affirms the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics; [PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §6 (RPR); PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §11 (AFF).]

B. The candidate has never been convicted of a Class C or higher crime; [PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §6 (RPR); PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §11 (AFF).]

C. The candidate applies to the Secretary of State for a criminal background investigation; [PL 2011, c. 342, §32 (AMD).]

D. The candidate submits written certification from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy that the candidate:

(1) Is currently certified as a law enforcement officer and has met the basic law enforcement training standards under Title 25, section 2804-C; or

(3) Was previously certified as a law enforcement officer and agrees to meet the basic law enforcement training standards under Title 25, section 2804-C within one year of taking office; and [PL 2021, c. 202, §1 (AMD).]

E. The candidate swears to or affirms that the candidate has at least 2 years of supervisory employment experience in law enforcement or corrections or a combination of both and submits the name, address and telephone number for the relevant employer or employers. [PL 2019, c. 33, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2021, c. 202, §1 (AMD).]

**3-A. Ongoing training.** A person appointed to the office of sheriff shall continually meet the in-service law enforcement training standards under Title 25, section 2804-E and any other statutory requirements of preservice, basic or in-service law enforcement training required for certification or continued certification as a law enforcement officer.  
[PL 2021, c. 202, §2 (NEW).]

**4. Exception.** Any person who served as a full-time law enforcement officer employed by a municipal police department or a state agency, including the University of Maine System, on or before July 1, 1990 or is serving in the office of sheriff on June 26, 2021 or served prior to that date is deemed to meet the minimum qualifications of subsection 3.  
[PL 2021, c. 202, §3 (AMD).]

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1997, c. 37, §1 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 87, §1 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 562, §D6 (RPR). PL 1997, c. 562, §D11 (AFF). PL 1999, c. 338, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 510, §C11 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 342, §§32-34 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 33, §1 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 202, §§1-3 (AMD).

## §372. Sheriff's bond

**1. Bond required.** Every person elected or appointed sheriff for the Counties of York, Cumberland, Kennebec or Penobscot, before receiving that commission, must give bond to the Treasurer of State with at least 3 sufficient sureties or with the bond of a surety company authorized to do business in this State as surety in the sum of \$40,000 and for any of the other counties in the sum of \$25,000, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of the office and to answer for all neglect



and misdoings of the chief deputy. Surety and fidelity insurance coverage provided by a public sector self-funded risk pool organized pursuant to section 2253 in the sum ordered by the commissioners is deemed to comply with the requirements of this section.

[PL 1999, c. 22, §3 (AMD).]

**2. Approval of bond.** After executing the required bond, every sheriff shall file it in the office of the county clerk, to be presented to the county commissioners at their next meeting for approval. After the bond has been approved by the commissioners, the clerk shall record it and certify the fact of approval on the bond.

[PL 1999, c. 22, §3 (AMD).]

**3. Annual examination of bonds.** The county commissioners of each county, at their first meeting after the 3rd Tuesday of June, on motion of the district attorney, shall annually examine the sufficiency of the bond of the sheriff of their county and have their clerk make a record of their determination.

[PL 1999, c. 22, §3 (AMD).]

**4. New bond when insufficient.** If the bond of any sheriff is found to be insufficient, the clerk shall certify that fact to the sheriff within 10 days. Within 20 days after that notice is given, the sheriff must give a new bond with sufficient sureties, to be filed in the office of the county clerk and approved by the county commissioners.

[PL 1999, c. 22, §3 (AMD).]

**5. Forfeiture for neglect to give bond.** A sheriff forfeits \$150 to the State for each month's neglect to give the security required in this section. The Attorney General shall prosecute a civil action for the Treasurer of State to recover the forfeiture. The clerk of courts of the sheriff's county shall certify the sheriff's name to the Governor and the Attorney General. Unless reasonable cause for this neglect is shown or, within 20 days after the clerk certifies the sheriff's name, the sheriff gives or renews the security to the satisfaction of the Governor, the sheriff vacates the office.

[PL 1999, c. 22, §3 (AMD).]

**6. Governor may require new bond.** If the Treasurer of State certifies to the Governor that money due to the State on warrants or any other sums or balances are in a sheriff's possession and furnishes the names of the sheriff's sureties, and it appears to the Governor that the sureties are insufficient or have left the State, the Governor may require the sheriff to give a new bond with sufficient sureties within 60 days after the sheriff is notified. The new bond must be filed as required in subsections 1 and 2. If the sheriff neglects to file this new bond, the sheriff's office becomes vacant.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**7. New bond required on application of sureties.** When a surety on the official bond of a sheriff or the surety's heirs, executors or administrators petition the county commissioners to be discharged from suretyship, the commissioners shall have an attested copy of the petition served on the sheriff and may require a new bond to be given to their satisfaction. When it is given and accepted, the surety or the surety's legal representatives are not liable for any neglect or misdoings after that time.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 22, §3 (AMD).

#### §373. Salaries

**1. Salaries; full compensation.** County sheriffs shall receive annual salaries as set forth in subsection 3. The salaries are in full compensation for:

A. Services in attendance upon the Supreme Judicial Court and upon the Superior Court; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Services as jailer, master or keeper of the jail in each county; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Receiving and committing prisoners in the jail; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. The service of all criminal and civil processes; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. The performance of all duties relating to the enforcement of all criminal laws. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2011, c. 95, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Expenses allowed.** The county commissioners shall allow and pay from the county treasuries all actual and necessary expenses for travel and hotel bills within their respective counties and necessary incidental expenses as are just and proper, incurred in the performance of the sheriffs' public duties, including all necessary expense for aid in keeping the jails.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Salary; procedures.** The board of county commissioners of each county, through the county budget process, shall set the base salary for the county sheriff.

A. The salary for the county sheriff must be set prior to the election of a new county sheriff by the board of county commissioners by final budget approval prior to the first date that applicants may file with the Secretary of State for the office of county sheriff. [PL 2011, c. 95, §2 (NEW).]

B. The salary of the county sheriff may not be reduced during the sheriff's term other than upon complaint, and after due notice and hearing, of malfeasance, misfeasance, neglect or gross negligence or failure to maintain certification with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy by the board of county commissioners to the Office of the Governor. [PL 2015, c. 41, §1 (AMD).]

[PL 2015, c. 41, §1 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 95, §§1, 2 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 41, §1 (AMD).

#### §374. County sheriff to be full time

The office of county sheriff is a full-time office in each county. The duties of the county sheriff include law enforcement, jail administration and court services, with irregular hours, requiring a nonstandard work schedule. [PL 2011, c. 95, §3 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 95, §3 (AMD).

### ARTICLE 3

## DEPUTIES

### §381. Deputies; appointments and removal

The sheriff may appoint, subject to the requirements of section 501, full-time or part-time deputies, whose special duties are to enforce the criminal laws in the county. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Qualifications for appointment.** To be eligible for appointment, a deputy must have:

A. Actual experience in law enforcement duties; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Training in criminal justice or law enforcement from an accredited college or university or from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy; or [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Knowledge of the duties, activities and responsibilities of a deputy gained from other experience or training. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Training at Maine Criminal Justice Academy required.** Appointed deputies are subject to the training requirements of Title 25, sections 2804-B to 2804-F.

[PL 1991, c. 824, Pt. A, §61 (AMD).]

**3. Tenure of office.** Deputies must be originally appointed for a probationary period consistent with the provisions of section 2701 governing municipal employment and thereafter may be appointed or reappointed for a term of 3 years.

A. The failure of a sheriff to reappoint a deputy, except for appointment at the end of the probationary period, is subject to the procedures and standards for dismissal of an applicable collective bargaining agreement. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2001, c. 349, §4 (AMD).]

**4. Sheriff to furnish names.** From time to time, each sheriff shall furnish to the county commissioners of that county the names of the deputies appointed, with the residence and post office address of each.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Residence.** A full-time deputy may reside outside the county during the term of appointment only with the permission of the sheriff and county commissioners.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**6. Exceptions for civil deputies.** The provisions of subsections 1 to 5 do not apply to civil deputies. The sheriff may designate one or more persons to serve as civil deputies to enforce civil laws and serve civil process in accordance with the state rules of court. A civil deputy holds no other law enforcement powers. A civil deputy is compensated under section 386, subsection 4. The sheriff may

adopt rules, procedures and requirements related to the qualifications and training of a civil deputy and the service of civil process.

[PL 2017, c. 332, §5 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 824, §A61 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 349, §4 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 332, §5 (AMD).

#### §382. Special deputies; duties

**1. Appointment.** Sheriffs may at any time appoint and train as special deputies citizens more than 18 years of age. The appointment must be in writing, signed by the sheriff, and include the residence and post office address of each special deputy. The appointment must be recorded in the office of the county commissioners in the county and is not valid until recorded.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Active duty.** The sheriff or the sheriffs' chief deputy may order special deputies to active duty only when:

A. A state of war exists; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The Governor proclaims an emergency under Title 37-B, chapter 13; or [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. The Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency declares that a state of emergency is imminent. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]  
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Powers; liability.** Special deputies shall exercise all the powers of deputy sheriffs appointed under the general law, except the service of civil process, only for the duration of the emergency that exists or which has been proclaimed or during the time for which they have been ordered to active duty. Special deputies are personally responsible for any unreasonable, improper or illegal acts committed by them in the performance of their duties, but the sheriffs are not liable upon their bonds or otherwise for any neglect or misdoings of these deputies.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §383. Chief deputy

**1. Appointment.** As soon as possible after taking office, the sheriff in each county shall appoint a chief deputy to serve under the sheriff. The appointment must be in writing, signed by the sheriff and recorded in the office of the county commissioners in the county. The appointment is not valid until recorded, except by operation of law or by vacancy in the office of sheriff.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Tenure.** The chief deputy serves at the will of the sheriff.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Powers and duties.** The chief deputy has all the powers and duties of a deputy sheriff and is subject to the direction of the sheriff in the administration of that office.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Sheriff responsible for misconduct.** The sheriff is responsible for the official misconduct or neglect of the chief deputy.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Minimum qualifications.** The chief deputy must meet the minimum qualifications for sheriffs pursuant to section 371-B, subsection 3.

[PL 2011, c. 15, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 15, §1 (AMD).

#### §384. Chief deputy, deputies, bond; approval and filing

Before receiving a commission, every person appointed chief deputy under section 383, or appointed a deputy under section 381, shall give bond to the Treasurer of State with at least 3 sufficient sureties, or with the bond of a surety company authorized to do business in this State as surety, in the sum required by the county commissioners of that county, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of that office. The bond of the chief deputy must be filed and approved in the same manner as is required for the bond of a sheriff under section 372, subsection 2, and all of that subsection applies to these bonds. The county may furnish a bond for all full-time and part-time deputies that complies with this section. That bond must be recorded in the county records. Surety and fidelity insurance coverage provided by a public sector self-funded risk pool organized pursuant to section 2253 in a sum equal to or exceeding the sum required by this section is deemed to comply with the requirements of this section. [PL 1999, c. 22, §4 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 748 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 22, §4 (AMD).

#### §385. Vacancy in sheriff's office

**1. Chief deputy's powers.** If the office of sheriff becomes vacant because of death, resignation or otherwise, the chief deputy shall have and exercise the same rights and powers and be subject to the same duties and liabilities as a sheriff until the vacancy in the office of sheriff is filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine and the new sheriff has qualified under law.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Other deputies.** During the vacancy in the office of sheriff, all other deputies of the sheriff vacating the office shall continue to have and exercise the powers and duties of deputy sheriffs and are subject to the direction and control of the chief deputy in the same manner and to the same extent as if the chief deputy were sheriff.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### **§386. Compensation of deputies**

**1. Full-time deputies.** The county commissioners of each county in which deputies are employed shall set the rate of compensation for deputies employed in the county commissioners' county. The county treasurers shall pay the compensation, together with those incidental expenses that are necessary for the proper enforcement of the laws.

All fees received by full-time deputies for the service of civil process while on duty are deemed fees for the use of the county and are paid to the county treasurer for the use and benefit of the county.

A. [PL 1997, c. 44, §2 (RP).]

B. [PL 1997, c. 44, §2 (RP).]  
[PL 1997, c. 44, §2 (RPR).]

**2. Part-time deputies.** Part-time deputies must be compensated at a reasonable rate established by the county commissioners. A part-time deputy may not be compensated under this section for more than 1040 hours of work as a part-time deputy in any one calendar or fiscal year. Incidental expenses necessary for the proper enforcement of the laws must be paid in the same manner as provided for full-time deputies and are not included in the limitation on compensation. Compensation paid to a part-time deputy for serving as a court officer is not included in the limitation on compensation.

[PL 1997, c. 44, §2 (RPR).]

**3. Special deputies.** Special deputies may be compensated only when on active duty as provided under section 382. They must be compensated at a rate equal to the rate of compensation of full-time or part-time deputies, depending on the actual duties performed while on active service.

[PL 1997, c. 44, §2 (RPR).]

**4. Civil deputies.** Civil deputies must be compensated at a reasonable rate established by the county commissioners pursuant to section 421.

[PL 2017, c. 332, §6 (NEW).]

### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 180, §1 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 477, §2 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 44, §2 (RPR). PL 2017, c. 332, §6 (AMD).

## ARTICLE 4

### DUTIES

#### **§401. County law enforcement administration**

**1. Sheriff's duties.** The sheriff shall act as the chief county law enforcement officer and is responsible for administering and directing the sheriff's department as authorized by the county budget. The sheriff shall inform the county commissioners of sheriff's department activities on a regular basis.

[PL 2005, c. 397, Pt. A, §29 (AMD).]

**2. County commissioners' duties.** The county commissioners shall regularly review the sheriff's operations and shall ensure that the law enforcement functions required under the budget are being adequately performed. The county commissioners may not give orders directly to any deputies or other subordinates of the sheriff, either publicly or privately.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

### 3. Meetings with municipal officers.

[PL 2003, c. 696, §5 (RP).]

**4. Orders from the Governor.** Sheriffs shall obey all orders relating to law enforcement which they receive from the Governor.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Construction.** Nothing in this subchapter may be construed to relieve any state or municipal law enforcement agency of its authority and responsibility.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 696, §5 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 397, §A29 (AMD).

### §402. Aid required by officer; refusal

**1. Officer may require aid.** Any law enforcement officer may require suitable aid in the execution of official duties in criminal and traffic infraction cases for the following reasons:

A. For the preservation of the peace; or [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. For apprehending or securing any person for the breach of the peace or in case of the escape or rescue of persons arrested on civil process. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Violation and penalty.** Any person required to aid a law enforcement officer under this section who neglects or refuses to do so commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$3 nor more than \$50 to be paid to the county may be adjudged.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### §403. Officer to pay money collected

Any officer, who unreasonably neglects or refuses, on demand, to pay money received by him on execution to the person entitled to the money, shall pay 5 times the lawful interest on that money so long as the officer retains the money. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§404. Arrest in other counties**

Every sheriff or deputy sheriff in fresh pursuit of a person who travels beyond the limits of the county in which the sheriff or deputy is appointed has the same power to arrest that person as the sheriff or deputy has within the sheriff's or deputy's own county. This section applies to all classes of crimes and traffic infractions. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

As used in this section, with respect to felonies, the term "fresh pursuit" has the same meaning as in Title 15, section 152. With respect to misdemeanors and traffic infractions, "fresh pursuit" means instant pursuit of a person with intent to apprehend. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

**§405. Optional arrest powers****1. Optional powers.**

[PL 2003, c. 233, §1 (RP).]

**1-A. Optional powers.** The county commissioners may authorize a county's sheriff and certified full-time deputy sheriffs who have met the requirements of Title 25, section 2804-C to perform any of the acts described in Title 17-A, section 15 while outside the jurisdiction in which they are appointed if, when possible, the law enforcement agency of a foreign municipality in which the arrest is to be made is notified in advance or, when not possible, the law enforcement agency of the foreign municipality in which the arrest has been made is notified immediately after the arrest.

[PL 2003, c. 233, §2 (NEW).]

**2. Liability.** When a county sheriff or deputy sheriff makes an arrest, as authorized in subsection 1-A, outside of jurisdictional limits of the county in which the sheriff or deputy sheriff is appointed, that sheriff or deputy sheriff has the same immunity from tort liability and all of the pension, relief, disability, worker's compensation, insurance and any other benefits the sheriff or deputy sheriff enjoys while performing duties within the sheriff or deputy sheriff's appointing county.

[PL 2003, c. 233, §3 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1993, c. 594, §1 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 233, §§1-3 (AMD).

**§406. Duties of the sheriffs in support of the State Board of Corrections**

**(REPEALED)**

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 2007, c. 653, Pt. A, §6 (NEW). RR 2011, c. 1, §46 (COR). PL 2011, c. 374, §§1-3 (AMD). PL 2015, c. 335, §7 (RP).

**ARTICLE 5****FEES****§421. Fees**



Sheriffs and their deputies shall receive the following fees, unless the sheriffs and deputies are paid a salary instead of the fees: [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Civil process.** For service of all writs or complaints with summonses, precepts, notices, executions, court orders, orders of service, copies and all other civil process or papers requiring service that are not specified in this section:

A. For proceedings in forma pauperis, \$8 for each such service and \$40 if the service is made in hand; [PL 2021, c. 739, §1 (AMD).]

B. For service on behalf of the State, \$8 for each such service and \$40 if the service is made in hand; and [PL 2021, c. 739, §1 (AMD).]

C. For all other proceedings, \$16 for each such service and \$40 if the service is made in hand; [PL 2021, c. 739, §1 (AMD).]  
[PL 2021, c. 739, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Disclosure subpoena.** For the service of a disclosure subpoena as provided by Title 14, chapter 502, \$40;  
[PL 2021, c. 739, §2 (AMD).]

**3. Complaint for divorce.** For the service of a complaint for divorce with a writ of attachment by serving summonses and attested copy of the writ and complaint, or for the service of a complaint for divorce with an order of court by attested copy, \$40;  
[PL 2021, c. 739, §3 (AMD).]

**4. Attachment of real estate.** For the attachment of real estate at the registry of deeds, \$40;  
[PL 2021, c. 739, §4 (AMD).]

**5. Attachment of personal property; replevin.** For the attachment of personal property or for the service of a writ of replevin, \$40, and an hourly rate determined by the sheriff to be charged for each hour after the first required for the service;  
[PL 2021, c. 739, §5 (AMD).]

**6. Civil arrests and custody.** For civil arrests and custody under the arrest, including arrest and custody under paternity proceedings, \$60 and an hourly rate determined by the sheriff to be charged for each hour after the first required for the service plus mileage at at least the same rate per mile as provided under Title 5, section 8;  
[PL 2021, c. 739, §6 (AMD).]

**7. Tax summonses and warrants.** For the service of tax summonses and arrest under tax warrants, the same as for service of civil process;  
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**8. Executions in personal actions.** For levying and collecting executions in personal actions, for every dollar of the first \$100, 4¢; for every dollar above \$100 and not exceeding \$200, 3¢; and for every dollar above \$200, 2¢;  
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**9. Redeeming mortgaged real estate.** For advertising in a newspaper a right in equity of redeeming mortgaged real estate to be sold on execution, the sums that they pay the printer for those advertisements; for posting notice of the sale of the equity in the municipality where the land lies and in 2 adjoining municipalities, \$6 and usual travel, and for a deed and return of the sale of the equity, \$3;

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**10. Warrant; mittimus.** For the service of a warrant, the officer is entitled to \$2 and \$2 for the service of a mittimus to commit a person to jail and usual travel, except as limited by Title 15, section 1363, and reasonable expenses incurred in the conveyance of the prisoner; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**11. Attending court and keeping prisoner.**

[PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 722, §5 (RP).]

**12. Service of tax warrant.** For the service of a tax warrant as provided by Title 36, section 173, the same as for service of civil process. For collecting taxes, penalties and interest under such warrants, for every dollar of the first \$100, 4¢; for every dollar above \$100 and not exceeding \$200, 3¢; and for every dollar above \$200, 2¢. Additional services, including travel, must be charged as provided in this section;

[PL 2005, c. 218, §3 (AMD).]

**13. Service of an income tax warrant.**

[PL 2005, c. 218, §4 (RP).]

**14. Search for persons to serve.** For diligently searching for persons on whom they are commanded to serve civil process when that party cannot be located at an address given to the sheriff or the deputy sheriff by the plaintiff or the plaintiff's attorney when commanding the service to be made, \$40, plus mileage at at least the same rate per mile as provided under Title 5, section 8; and

[PL 2021, c. 739, §7 (AMD).]

**15. Levy on real estate.** The fees of the register of deeds for recording a levy upon real estate or the deed of the officer for the sale of real estate on execution and all sums paid by the officers for the state transfer tax shall be taxed by the officers in their return. All officers making levy on real estate by appraisal shall have the execution and their return on the execution recorded by the register of deeds for the district where the land lies within 3 months after the levy.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

A sheriff or deputy sheriff may not charge a fee for attesting copies of any writ. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

In addition to the fees charged for service, travel may be charged for each mile actually traveled at the same rate at which county government employees are reimbursed within that county, except that all travel initiated on behalf of a state government agency must be reimbursed at at least the same rate per mile as provided under Title 5, section 8. [PL 2021, c. 739, §8 (AMD).]

The county commissioners of each county may require that the fees collected under subsections 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 12 and 14 be increased by \$25. The sheriff or deputy shall collect this additional amount and pay it to the county treasurer for the use and benefit of the county. The county commissioners may also require that the fees collected under subsections 1 to 14 be increased by an amount equal to the cost of social security and other withholding taxes on the fees payable under this section. [PL 2021, c. 739, §9 (AMD).]

A full-time deputy, whether or not paid a salary, shall receive the fees listed in this section for the service of civil process if made while not on duty. [PL 1989, c. 180, §2 (NEW).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 180, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 303 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 502, §A112 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 722, §5 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 878, §A82 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 498, §§2,3 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 5, §1 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 8, §1 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 86, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 218, §§3-5 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 205, §3 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 739, §§1-9 (AMD).

#### **§422. Fees from deputies**

No sheriff may receive any fees earned by the sheriff's deputies or any percentage of those fees from any of the deputies. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§423. Collection and accounting for fees**

The sheriff shall charge and collect, as provided by law, all fees chargeable under the laws for performing any of the duties described in section 373. The sheriff shall keep an accurate account of those fees, and of those specified in section 424, and transmit that account to the county treasurer on the last days of March, June, September and December annually, and the amount deducted from the quarter's salary for the quarter then ending. If these fees are greater than the amount of salary then due the sheriff, the sheriff shall pay the excess to the county treasurer. No county treasurer may pay any quarter's salary until this statement has been filed. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§424. Disposal of fees for prisoners confined in jail**

For all prisoners committed from other counties or from any court of the United States and for all other persons confined on civil processes, sheriffs shall collect the same fees for their entire support as are provided by law or may be set by the county commissioners as provided by law. They shall include those fees in the statement provided for in section 423 and the fees shall be deducted from the salary as prescribed. They shall not make any charge or collect any fees for the support of prisoners committed on criminal process from any court in the county in which the jail is located. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

## ARTICLE 6

### ACTIONS AGAINST SHERIFFS

#### **§431. Persons injured sue on sheriff's bond; endorsement of writ; costs; judgment**

Any person injured by the neglect or misdoings of a sheriff, who has first determined the amount of those damages by judgment in a civil action against the sheriff, the sheriff's executors or

administrators, or by a decree of the Probate Court allowing that claim, at the injured person's expense in the name of the Treasurer of State, may institute a civil action on the sheriff's official bond in the county where the sheriff was authorized to act and prosecute it to final judgment and execution. The injured person's name and place of residence or that of the injured person's attorney shall be endorsed on the writ, summons or complaint and the endorser alone is liable for costs. If judgment is rendered for the Treasurer of State, it shall be for the damages determined, or so much of those damages as remains unpaid, with interest. The party's name for whom the action was brought shall be set forth in the execution issued on that judgment. If the judgment is for the defendant, execution for costs shall be issued against the party for whom the action was brought. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§432. Additional actions on sheriff's bond; proceedings**

Any other person having a right of action on a sheriff's bond may file an additional complaint in the same action in the office of the clerk of courts. The clerk shall issue a summons, directed to the defendant, specifying the cause of action and the amount demanded, returnable to the same court and endorsed by the name and place of residence of that other person or that person's attorney. The endorser is liable for costs like endorsers of writs, summonses and complaints. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Service; answer.** The summons shall be served on the defendant and attachment may be made, as in an original action. After service, the person filing the complaint has all the rights of a plaintiff in the action. The defendant shall answer to the complaint, and judgment may be rendered on the complaint as if it were filed in an action originally instituted for the same cause. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Judgment; execution.** When judgment is rendered against the defendant in such an action, damages shall be assessed on each complaint for the amount which the party filing it would recover in an action on the bond, with costs. Executions shall issue for that amount in the name of each party so recovering in the order in which the complaints were filed, but not beyond the amount of the bond. If judgment is for the defendant on any such complaint, execution for costs shall issue against the party filing it. No such action may be dismissed, except by order of court, without the consent of all plaintiffs. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§433. Exemption from arrest in civil action; proceedings on failure to pay execution; office vacated**

No sheriff may be arrested upon any writ or execution in a civil action. When a judgment is rendered against the sheriff in the sheriff's private or official capacity, the execution on that judgment shall issue against the sheriff's property but not against the sheriff's body. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Sheriff's disclosure.** The sheriff, after notice that execution has issued, unless upon a judgment for the sheriff's official delinquency, may cite the creditor and disclose the actual state of the sheriff's affairs in the manner provided for poor debtors arrested upon execution. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Filing with Governor; office vacated.** If the execution is returned unsatisfied and the sheriff has not made a disclosure under subsection 1 or if the judgment was rendered for the sheriff's own official delinquency, the creditor may file an attested copy of the execution and return with the Governor, and serve on the sheriff a copy of that copy, attested by the Secretary of State, with a signed notice of the day on which the first copy was filed. If, within 40 days after this service, the sheriff does not pay the creditor the full debt with reasonable costs for copies and service of the copies, he thereby vacates the office of sheriff. When the office is vacated, the clerk may issue alias executions against the former sheriff's property and body, as in other cases. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §434. Copy of bond available; evidence

The Treasurer of State shall deliver an attested copy of a sheriff's bond to anyone applying and paying for it. That copy is competent evidence in any case relating to the sheriff's bond, unless its execution is disputed, in which case the court may order the treasurer to produce the bond in court for the purposes of the trial. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §435. Survival of actions against sheriff or deputy

Actions for the neglect or misdoings of a sheriff or the sheriff's deputies survive the sheriff and may be brought against the sheriff's executors or administrators. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

## ARTICLE 7

### REMOVAL OF SHERIFF

#### §441. Removal of sheriff

Whenever the county commissioners find that the sheriff is not faithfully or efficiently performing any duty imposed by this chapter or that the sheriff is improperly exercising or acting outside the sheriff's authority, the commissioners may file a complaint with the Governor describing in detail the facts of those actions or omissions and requesting the Governor to remove the sheriff from office and

appoint another sheriff in that office for the remainder of the term. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

## ARTICLE 8

### COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS

#### §451. Definitions

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**1. Ambulance services.** "Ambulance services" means those emergency services primarily designed to transport ill or injured persons to available medical facilities and to administer first aid and emergency life-support systems in the interim period.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Civil emergency services.**  
[PL 2013, c. 462, §5 (RP).]

**3. Communications.** "Communications" means a system for sending and receiving information to aid in law enforcement or law enforcement functions between fixed or mobile points, including telephone, teletype or radio systems. Communications also includes dispatching, which means the operation of sending messages and directing the operations of mobile units from a central fixed-base transmitter.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**4. Detention.** In the case of an adult, "detention" means the confining of an adult held in lawful custody in a specially constructed or modified facility designed to ensure continued custody and control. Detention may be confinement before trial or another hearing by a court or confinement to serve court-imposed sentences or dispositions and may be in a jail or lock-up. In the case of a juvenile, "detention" has the same meaning as in Title 15, section 3003, subsection 4-B.

[PL 1991, c. 493, §26 (AMD).]

**4-A. Emergency management.** "Emergency management" means the coordination and implementation of an organized effort to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from a disaster.  
[PL 2013, c. 462, §6 (NEW).]

**5. Emergency services.** "Emergency services" means assistance given to one or more persons or areas, when there is imminent danger of damage or injury to property or personal health and safety, and includes ambulance services, emergency management agency services and rescue services.

[PL 2013, c. 462, §7 (AMD).]

**6. Intelligence.** "Intelligence" means the collection, storage, retrieval, analysis and use of information about persons known to be repeatedly violating the criminal law in a manner difficult to detect as part of a covertly planned, deliberate or organized attempt to undertake criminal acts.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**7. Investigation.** "Investigation" means the inquiry about, or examination or observation of, persons or objects to gather evidence concerning unlawful acts or the apprehension of wrongdoers. Investigation may also mean examination, inquiry or observation of persons or things in order to determine compliance with qualifications or requirements for the issuing of licenses or permits, when those actions are taken at the request of the issuing authority.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**8. Jail.** "Jail" means a specially constructed or modified facility designated by law or regularly used for detention for a period of up to 12 months.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**9. Juvenile services.** "Juvenile services" means the personnel, procedures and services provided to deal with delinquents or criminal offenders under 18 years of age. "Delinquent" means a person under 18 years of age who:

A. Is truant; [PL 2011, c. 614, §22 (AMD).]

B. Behaves in an incorrigible or indecent and lascivious manner; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Knowingly and willfully associates with vicious, criminal or grossly immoral people; or [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. Repeatedly deserts home without just cause. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2011, c. 614, §22 (AMD).]

**10. Laboratory services.** "Laboratory services" means those services which concern the testing or analyzing of physical evidence, by chemical or physical science methods and techniques, in order to determine its properties, composition, attributes or other information required for law enforcement purposes.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**11. Law enforcement functions.** "Law enforcement functions" means functions or services related to law enforcement, including patrol, laboratory services, intelligence, investigation, juvenile services, emergency services, detention and communications, whether or not those services are administered or directed through the sheriff's department or municipal police departments.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**12. Lock-up.** "Lock-up" means a facility designated by law or regularly used for detention for a temporary period before trial or transfer to a jail or other facility.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**13. Patrol.** "Patrol" means the regular and repeated circuit of the jurisdictional area as a method of deterring criminal activities, of observing or inspecting for possible violations or criminal activities, of providing for rapid response to calls for assistance and of maintaining order and the general peace.

Patrol includes regulating and facilitating the movement of people and vehicles and maintaining highway safety by routine enforcement of the traffic laws and also the response to particular calls for assistance. Patrol may be conducted on foot or in a motor vehicle, aircraft or watercraft.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**14. Rescue.** "Rescue" means those services required to free or save persons from imminent injury or death due to accidents or other emergencies.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2, C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8, 10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 925, §12 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 493, §26 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 614, §22 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 462, §§5-7 (AMD).

#### **§452. Patrol**

The sheriff in each county, in person or by the sheriff's deputies, to the extent the sheriff undertakes to patrol, shall patrol those areas in the county that have no local law enforcement but may not be required by law to patrol the entire county. The county commissioners, with the sheriff's agreement, may enter into a contract with a municipality under section 107 to provide specific patrol services by the sheriff's department in return for payment for these services. [PL 1991, c. 478 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2, C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8, 10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 478 (AMD).

#### **§453. Communications centers**

Each county may establish a communications center, separate from any communications function of the sheriff's department and capable of serving the communication needs of the county and the municipalities that may wish to use the center. [PL 2013, c. 462, §8 (AMD).]

The county commissioners, after consulting with municipal officers, are responsible for setting policies for the communications center. They shall appoint a director or chief dispatcher who is responsible for carrying out their policies. The director or chief dispatcher, if qualified, may be the director of the county emergency management agency. [PL 2013, c. 462, §8 (AMD).]

The county communications center shall provide communication services for the sheriff's department, county emergency management agency, county or municipal rescue or ambulance services, county or municipal fire departments or municipal police departments. [PL 2013, c. 462, §8 (AMD).]

The county commissioners, after consulting with the director or chief dispatcher, may enter into an agreement with a municipality under section 107 to provide specific communications for municipal law enforcement functions, including dispatching of municipal units, in return for payment for these services. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2, C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8, 10 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 462, §8 (AMD).

#### **§453-A. Public safety answering point**

**(REPEALED)**

#### SECTION HISTORY



PL 1989, c. 104, §§A10,C10 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 232, §2 (RP).

#### **§454. Detention**

Each county shall provide detention facilities, either within the county or, by contract with another county, outside the county. Counties may enter into an agreement under chapter 115 to provide consolidated detention facilities for the use of the agreeing counties. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§455. Investigation, intelligence or laboratory services**

Counties may provide investigation, intelligence or laboratory services within the sheriff's department to aid county law enforcement, municipal police departments or the district attorney. The county may set uniform charges payable by municipalities for specific laboratory procedures or tests, when those charges reflect the actual cost of the procedures or tests, but may not require or accept any additional payments, other than the county tax, for investigation, intelligence or other laboratory services when they are provided to municipal departments or the district attorney. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§456. Rescue services**

Each county may provide rescue services through the sheriff's department and deputies. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§457. Ambulance service**

**1. Scope of service.** Each county may provide ambulance service:

A. To the entire county, omitting only those municipalities who request not to be included; or [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. By municipal-county contracts under section 107 or chapter 115, to those municipalities who enter into contracts, provided that county tax revenues are not used to support the ambulance services. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Method of service.** Within the limits of subsection 1, the county may provide ambulance services by county personnel and vehicles or by contract with private organizations, corporations or persons, or with municipalities under section 107 or chapter 115.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§458. Juvenile services**

Each county may provide juvenile services either through the sheriff's department or by other county personnel. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§458-A. Temporary holding capacity**

By January 1, 1992, each county shall establish the capacity to hold a juvenile for 72 hours, excluding Saturday, Sunday and legal holidays, either in a temporary holding resource, as defined in Title 15, section 3003, subsection 26 or in a secure detention facility, as defined in Title 15, section 3003, subsection 24-A or shall establish a juvenile detention diversion project approved by the Department of Corrections. [PL 1993, c. 354, §13 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 925, §13 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 493, §27 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 354, §13 (AMD).

#### **§459. Administrative services**

Each county may undertake administrative, management and supporting functions required to implement the law enforcement functions authorized by this chapter, including the recruitment and training of county personnel, maintenance of records and preservation of evidence, purchasing of necessary supplies and planning and budget preparation. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§460. Victim and witness support**

Each county is encouraged to establish a victim and witness support program to assist the victims and witnesses of criminal offenses in the prosecution of those offenses. Each county is further encouraged to hire, train and provide support staff to a qualified person or persons to carry out the victim and witness support program. The district attorney for the prosecutorial district in which the county is located shall administer any program established under this section. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§461. State reimbursement for costs of rescue services supported by communities with populations of less than 200**

**1. Reimbursement for costs.** The State may reimburse communities with populations of less than 200 that have no Interstate 95 exit within the town limits of that town for those communities' costs of providing fire, ambulance or other rescue services for accidents that occur on Interstate 95. [PL 2005, c. 413, §1 (NEW).]

**2. Reimbursement for Rescue Services Fund.** There is established within the Department of Public Safety the Reimbursement for Rescue Services Fund, referred to in this subsection as "the fund," as a dedicated fund to provide reimbursement for costs of rescue services as provided in subsection 1. The Commissioner of Public Safety may accept money into the fund from gifts, grants, bequests and donations and any appropriation or allocation that the commissioner determines necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. [PL 2005, c. 413, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2005, c. 413, §1 (NEW).

#### **§462. Aid to other law enforcement agencies**

Except as otherwise provided by county charter or ordinance, the county commissioners may authorize the sheriff or other designee to request other counties to provide law enforcement officers to assist the requesting county. The county commissioner may authorize the sheriff or other designee to provide law enforcement officers to assist other counties when so requested by a properly authorized sheriff or other designee of the requesting county. [PL 2013, c. 261, §1 (NEW).]

The authorizations of the county commissioners under this section must be accompanied by an agreement between the requesting county and the responding county that specifies which county is liable, if any liability is determined to exist, for personal injury or property damage caused by or occurring to the law enforcement officers of the responding county in the course of assisting the requesting county. [PL 2013, c. 261, §1 (NEW).]

If a request for assistance is for a major unplanned incident that jeopardizes the health and welfare of the citizens of the requesting county and when delay may cause further jeopardy to life or property or in the case of jointly planned collaborative activity, the sheriff or the sheriff's designee may request assistance from or provide assistance to another county or law enforcement agency whether or not an agreement between the 2 counties or parties exists. Each law enforcement department shall assume its own liability to a 3rd party, except for liability incurred by the command or operational decisions made by the requesting department, which must be assumed by the requesting department. For the purposes of this paragraph, "major unplanned incident" means an extraordinary emergency to which a law enforcement agency is unable to adequately respond that presents a substantial and imminent danger to the public safety and that necessitates the cooperation or assistance of other law enforcement agencies. [PL 2013, c. 261, §1 (NEW).]

The law enforcement officers of the responding county or law enforcement agency have the same authority as law enforcement officers within the limits of the requesting county, except as to the service of civil process and, when assisting the other county, have the same privileges and immunities as when acting within their own jurisdiction. [PL 2013, c. 261, §1 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 261, §1 (NEW).

## ARTICLE 9

### PARKING ENFORCEMENT SPECIALISTS

**§471. County volunteer parking enforcement programs**

**1. Programs established.** Each sheriff's department may establish a program to deputize volunteer parking enforcement specialists to enforce disabled parking restrictions in private parking lots within the county, in areas that are not within the jurisdiction of a municipal police department, pursuant to enforcement agreements entered into between the sheriff's department and the owners of those lots under section 3009, subsection 1, paragraph D.

[PL 2021, c. 348, §42 (AMD).]

**2. Qualifications.** To qualify as a volunteer parking enforcement specialist, an applicant:

A. Must be at least 18 years of age; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

B. Must successfully complete a criminal history check to standards officially adopted by the sheriff's department; and [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

C. Must successfully complete an examination and training program, as established in section 473. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

The sheriff's department should seek applicants who have disabilities.

[PL 2021, c. 348, §43 (AMD).]

**3. Duties.** After an applicant has qualified under subsection 2, the sheriff's department shall deputize the applicant as a volunteer parking enforcement specialist. A volunteer parking enforcement specialist shall:

A. Issue parking citations, tickets or oral warnings to operators of motor vehicles parked in violation of any disabled parking restriction in private parking lots, pursuant to agreements entered into under section 3009, subsection 1, paragraph D; and [PL 2021, c. 348, §44 (AMD).]

B. Make referrals to a law enforcement agency when proper and appropriate. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 348, §44 (AMD).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A11,C10 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 348, §§42-44 (AMD).

**§472. Municipal volunteer parking enforcement programs**

**1. Programs established.** Each municipal police department, with the approval of the municipal officers, may establish a program or contract with the sheriff to carry out a program to deputize volunteer parking enforcement specialists to enforce disabled parking restrictions in private lots within the municipality, pursuant to enforcement agreements entered into between the police department and the owners of those lots under section 3009, subsection 1, paragraph D.

[PL 2021, c. 348, §45 (AMD).]

**2. Qualifications.** To qualify as a volunteer parking enforcement specialist, an applicant:

A. Must be at least 18 years of age; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

B. Must successfully complete a criminal history check to standards officially adopted by the police department; and [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

C. Must successfully complete an examination and training program, as established in section 473, except that the police department may conduct the local orientation. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

The police department should seek applicants who have disabilities.  
[PL 2021, c. 348, §46 (AMD).]

**3. Duties.** After an applicant has qualified under subsection 2, the police department shall deputize the applicant as a volunteer parking enforcement specialist. A volunteer parking enforcement specialist shall:

A. Issue parking citations, tickets or oral warnings to operators of motor vehicles parked in violation of any disabled parking restriction in private parking lots, pursuant to agreements entered into under section 3009, subsection 1, paragraph D; and [PL 2021, c. 348, §47 (AMD).]

B. Make referrals to a law enforcement agency when proper and appropriate. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]  
[PL 2021, c. 348, §47 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A11,C10 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 348, §§45-47 (AMD).

#### §473. Training and examination

**1. Training manual.** An applicant for the position of parking enforcement specialist shall be provided with a copy of a self-paced study guide and training manual approved by the Commissioner of Public Safety. The manual shall include, but is not limited to, instruction in:

A. What a ticket or citation is and how to issue one correctly; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

B. Reporting and referring cases to a law enforcement officer or agency when appropriate and avoiding confrontation; [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

C. Communication and public relation skills that emphasize positive public relations and community education; and [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

D. Basic first aid. [PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]  
[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

**2. Examination.** The Commissioner of Public Safety shall devise the examination for parking enforcement specialists. The sheriff's department shall offer examinations as needed.  
[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

**3. Local orientation.** Upon successful completion of the examination, applicants shall be given an orientation program by the sheriff's department on local ordinances and procedures.  
[PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §11 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §10 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 104, §§A11,C10 (NEW).

### SUBCHAPTER 7

### COUNTY EMPLOYMENT

### ARTICLE 1

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

## §501. Employment and dismissal of county employees

**1. Employment.** All county officers or department heads shall submit to the county commissioners or the County Personnel Board, if one has been established under article 2, the name of any person the county officer or department head proposes to employ or the names of more than one person from which the county commissioners or personnel board are to select a person for employment. The county commissioners or the County Personnel Board may approve the employment of the person or select a person for employment. If approval is withheld or a selection is not made, the county commissioners or the County Personnel Board, within 14 days after the name or names have been submitted, shall notify the county officer or department head of the reasons for their disapproval or failure to make a selection.

[PL 1991, c. 548, Pt. D, §3 (AMD).]

**2. Qualifications.** All county employees shall be appointed without regard to any political affiliation and solely on the basis of professional qualifications relating to the work to be performed or their potential for acquiring those qualifications.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2-A. Probationary period for corrections officials.** A person who is hired as jailer, master, keeper or a subordinate assistant or employee under section 1501 must complete an employment probationary period that lasts for one year. During the probationary period, a person who is hired as jailer, master, keeper or a subordinate assistant or employee under section 1501 may be dismissed, suspended or otherwise disciplined without cause. Dismissal, suspension or any other disciplinary action against an employee during the probationary period is not subject to the grievance and arbitration provision of the collective bargaining agreement.

[PL 2021, c. 601, §11 (AMD).]

**3. Dismissal, suspension, discipline.** Following a reasonable probationary period consistent with the provisions of subsection 2-A and section 2701, a county officer or department head may dismiss, suspend or otherwise discipline a department employee only for cause, except as provided in paragraph A. Cause for dismissal, suspension or disciplinary action must be a just, reasonable, appropriate and substantial reason for the action taken that relates to or affects the ability, performance of duties, authority or actions of the employee or the public's rights or interests.

A. An employee may be dismissed by a county officer or department head only for cause and only with the prior approval of the county commissioners or personnel board, except that county employees may be laid off or dismissed, with the approval of the county commissioners or personnel board, to meet the requirements of budget reductions or governmental reorganization. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. In every case of suspension or disciplinary action other than dismissal, at the employee's request, the county commissioners or personnel board shall investigate the circumstances and fairness of the action and, if they find the charges unwarranted, shall order the employee's reinstatement to the employee's former position with no loss of pay, rights or benefits resulting from the suspension or disciplinary action. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 2009, c. 106, §2 (AMD).]

**4. Application to county commissioners' employees.** Subsections 1 and 3 do not apply to county employees directly employed by the county commissioners, unless a County Personnel Board has been established under article 2.

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**5. Application to chief deputy.** Subsections 1, 2 and 3 do not apply to the appointment, dismissal, suspension or discipline of a chief deputy by a sheriff.

[PL 2011, c. 15, §2 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 548, §D3 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 349, §5 (AMD). PL 2009, c. 106, §§ 1, 2 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 15, §2 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 601, §11 (AMD).

#### §502. Mandatory retirement age prohibited

No county or county officer may adopt any rule or take any action which requires a county employee, as a condition of employment, to retire at or before a specified age or after a specified number of years of service. All of the provisions of section 2704 relating to the prohibition of mandatory retirement of municipal employees also apply to and prohibit the mandatory retirement of county employees. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §503. Personnel records

**1. Confidential records.** The following records are confidential and not open to public inspection. They are not "public records" as defined in Title 1, section 402, subsection 3. These records include:

A. Except as provided in this paragraph, applications, resumes, letters and notes of reference, working papers, research materials, records, examinations and any other documents or records and the information they contain, solicited or prepared either by the applicant or the county for use in the examination or evaluation of applicants for positions as county employees.

(1) Notwithstanding any confidentiality provision other than this paragraph, applications, resumes and letters and notes of reference, other than those letters and notes of reference expressly submitted in confidence, pertaining to the applicant hired are public records after the applicant is hired.

(2) Telephone numbers are not public records if they are designated as "unlisted" or "unpublished" in an application, resume or letter or note of reference.

(3) This paragraph does not preclude union representatives from access to personnel records which may be necessary for the bargaining agent to carry out its collective bargaining responsibilities. Any records available to union representatives which are otherwise covered by this subsection shall remain confidential and are not open to public inspection; [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 402, §2 (RPR).]

B. County records containing the following:

(1) Medical information of any kind, including information pertaining to the diagnosis or treatment of mental or emotional disorders;

(2) Performance evaluations and personal references submitted in confidence;

(3) Information pertaining to the creditworthiness of a named employee;

(4) Information pertaining to the personal history, general character or conduct of members of an employee's immediate family;

(5) Complaints, charges or accusations of misconduct, replies to those complaints, charges or accusations and any other information or materials that may result in disciplinary action. If disciplinary action is taken, the final written decision relating to that action is no longer confidential after the decision is completed if it imposes or upholds discipline. The decision must state the conduct or other facts on the basis of which disciplinary action is being imposed and the conclusions of the acting authority as to the reasons for that action. If an arbitrator completely overturns or removes disciplinary action from an employee personnel file, the final written decision is public except that the employee's name must be deleted from the final written decision and kept confidential. If the employee whose name was deleted from the final written decision discloses that the employee is the person who is the subject of the final written decision, the entire final written report, with regard to that employee, is public.

For purposes of this subparagraph, "final written decision" means:

- (a) The final written administrative decision that is not appealed pursuant to a grievance arbitration procedure; or
- (b) If the final written administrative decision is appealed to arbitration, the final written decision of a neutral arbitrator.

A final written administrative decision that is appealed to arbitration is no longer confidential 120 days after a written request for the decision is made to the employer if the final written decision of the neutral arbitrator is not issued and released before the expiration of the 120 days; and

(6) Personal information, including that which pertains to the employee's:

- (a) Age;
- (b) Ancestry, ethnicity, genetic information, national origin, race or skin color;
- (c) Marital status;
- (d) Mental or physical disabilities;
- (e) Personal contact information, as described in Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph O;
- (f) Personal employment choices pertaining to elected payroll deductions, deferred compensation, savings plans, pension plans, health insurance and life insurance;
- (g) Religion;
- (h) Sex, gender identity or sexual orientation as defined in Title 5, section 4553, subsection 9-C; or
- (i) Social security number.

Such personal information may be disclosed publicly in aggregate form, unless there is a reasonable possibility that the information would be able to be used, directly or indirectly, to identify any specific employee; and [PL 2023, c. 159, §2 (AMD).]

C. Other information to which access by the general public is prohibited by law. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]  
[PL 2023, c. 159, §2 (AMD).]

**1-A. Investigations of deadly force or physical force by law enforcement officer.** The name of a law enforcement officer is not confidential under subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (5) in cases involving:

- A. The use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer; or [PL 1991, c. 729, §6 (NEW).]



B. The use of physical force by a law enforcement officer resulting in death or serious bodily injury. [PL 1991, c. 729, §6 (NEW).]

In cases specified in paragraphs A and B, regardless of whether disciplinary action is taken, the findings of any investigation into the officer's conduct are no longer confidential when the investigation is completed and a decision on whether to bring criminal charges has been made, except that if criminal charges are brought, the findings of the investigation remain confidential until the conclusion of the criminal case.

[PL 1991, c. 729, §6 (NEW).]

**1-B. Investigation of allegation of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment by county jail employee.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (5), in the case of an allegation of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment within a county jail or detention facility, a determination that the allegation was substantiated, unsubstantiated or unfounded may be disclosed to the alleged victim. Unless the allegation is determined to be unfounded, the following information may also be shared with the alleged victim:

A. Whether the individual alleged to have engaged in the sexual misconduct or sexual harassment is still assigned to the same work location where the sexual misconduct or sexual harassment allegedly occurred; [PL 2023, c. 615, §4 (NEW).]

B. Whether the individual under paragraph A is still employed at the county jail or detention facility; [PL 2023, c. 615, §4 (NEW).]

C. Whether the individual under paragraph A has been criminally charged or convicted of a crime arising out of the allegation of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment; and [PL 2023, c. 615, §4 (NEW).]

D. Whether the prosecuting agency declined to seek an indictment or the grand jury declined to indict the individual under paragraph A based on the allegation of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. [PL 2023, c. 646, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]

[PL 2023, c. 646, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).]

**2. Employee right to review.** On written request from an employee or former employee, a county official with custody of the records shall provide that employee, former employee or the employee's authorized representative with an opportunity to review the employee's personnel file, if the county official has a personnel file for that employee. These reviews shall take place during normal office hours at the location where the personnel files are maintained.

A. For the purposes of this subsection, a personnel file includes, but is not limited to, any formal or informal employee evaluations and reports relating to the employee's character, credit, work habits, compensation and benefits of which the county official has possession. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The records described in subsection 1, paragraph B, may also be examined by the employee to whom they relate, as provided in this subsection. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**3. Constitutional obligations of a prosecutor.** Notwithstanding this section or any other provision of law, this section does not preclude the disclosure of confidential personnel records and the information contained in those records to the Attorney General, a deputy attorney general, an assistant attorney general, a district attorney, a deputy district attorney, an assistant district attorney or the equivalent departments or offices in a federal jurisdiction that are related to the determination of and

compliance with the constitutional obligations of the State or the United States to provide discovery to a defendant in a criminal matter. A person or entity participating in good faith disclosure under this subsection or participating in a related proceeding is immune from criminal and civil liability for the act of disclosure or for participating in the proceeding.

[PL 2013, c. 201, §2 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 402, §2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 229, §2 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 729, §6 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 770, §2 (AMD). PL 2013, c. 201, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 451, §2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 159, §2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 615, §4 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 646, Pt. B, §2 (AMD).

#### §504. Authority to act

Words in any statute, charter or ordinance giving authority to 3 or more persons authorize a majority to act when the statute, charter or ordinance does not otherwise specify. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a vacancy on an elected or appointed body does not in itself impair the authority of the remaining members to act unless a statute, charter or ordinance expressly prohibits the body from acting during the period of any vacancy and does not in itself affect the validity of any action no matter when taken. [PL 2007, c. 396, §2 (NEW); PL 2007, c. 396, §4 (AFF).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 396, §2 (NEW). PL 2007, c. 396, §4 (AFF).

## ARTICLE 2

### COUNTY PERSONNEL BOARD

#### §521. Establishment

The county commissioners may establish, after a public hearing, a County Personnel Board. The County Personnel Board has the duties and powers set forth in section 501 and this article. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### §522. Membership, terms and compensation

The County Personnel Board shall be composed of 3 or 5 members who may not be county officers or employees. The county commissioners shall appoint the members. The term of office of the members is 3 years, except that for the first appointment approximately 1/3 of the members shall be appointed for one year, approximately 1/3 for 2 years and the remainder for 3 years. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the term of the vacated appointment. The board shall elect its own chair annually. The members may receive \$25 a day for the time actually spent in the discharge of their duties and their necessary expenses. [PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. D, §1 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10,D1 (AMD).

**§523. Powers and duties****1. Duties.** The board shall:

A. Appoint a director; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. Approve appointments as authorized under section 501; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

C. Investigate and make orders in cases of dismissal, suspension or other disciplinary action as authorized under section 501; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

D. Investigate, hold hearings and report its findings, recommendations and orders for the purpose of approving appointments and dismissals, or reviewing suspensions or other disciplinary actions; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

E. Enforce the rules made under subsection 2, paragraph A; [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

F. Receive, review and send to the county commissioners and sheriff the annual report of the director. The director's report may be supplemented by any additional comment, criticism or suggestions for the more effectual accomplishment of the purposes of this subchapter that the commission may care to submit; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

G. Keep full and complete minutes of its proceedings, which are, subject to reasonable rules, open to public inspection. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]  
[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

**2. Powers.** The board may:

A. After a public hearing, adopt or amend rules relating to:

(1) Examination or standards for appointments;

(2) Probationary period;

(3) Reinstatement;

(4) Demotion;

(5) Suspension, layoff or dismissal;

(6) Provisional, emergency, exceptional and temporary appointments; and

(7) Leave of absence, resignation, hours of service, vacations and sick leave; and [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. In the course of any investigation through any member of the board, administer oaths and subpoena and require the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, public records and other documentary evidence relating to the investigation.

(1) If any person refuses to comply with any subpoena issued under this section or to testify to any matter regarding which that person which may be lawfully interrogated, the Superior Court in the county on application of any one of the members of the commission or of the director, when authorized by the commission, may issue an order requiring that person to comply with the subpoena and to testify. The court may punish any failure to obey this order as contempt of court. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

[PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

#### **§524. Director; qualifications; tenure; compensation; powers and duties**

At the time of appointment, the director must be a person familiar with the principles, methods and techniques of public personnel administration on the merit basis. The director's tenure of office is at the will of the personnel board and the director shall receive the compensation set by the board with the county commissioners' approval. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

The director shall administer and make effective this subchapter and the rules of the personnel board. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD).

### SUBCHAPTER 8

#### COUNTY RECORDS LAW

#### (REPEALED)

#### **§551. Short title**

#### (REPEALED)

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 304, §4 (RP).

#### **§552. Definitions**

#### (REPEALED)

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 304, §4 (RP).

#### **§553. General requirements**

**(REPEALED)**

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 304, §4 (RP).

**§554. County Records Board****(REPEALED)**

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 304, §4 (RP).

**§555. Powers and duties of board****(REPEALED)**

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 304, §4 (RP).

**§556. Assistance to counties****(REPEALED)**

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 304, §4 (RP).

**§557. Violation****(REPEALED)**

## SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 304, §4 (RP).

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