

**§5601. Statute of limitations**

**1. Three-year period of limitation.** A proceeding against a person for a Title 29-A traffic infraction or a Title 12 civil violation related to marine resources laws and inland fisheries and wildlife laws must be commenced within 3 years after the traffic infraction or civil violation is committed. The burden is on the defendant to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that a proceeding against a person for the traffic infraction or civil violation was commenced after the expiration of the 3-year period of limitation.

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

**2. Limitations on period of limitation.** The period of limitation may not run:

A. During any time when the defendant is absent from the State, but in no event may this paragraph extend the period of limitation by more than 5 years; or [PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. A, §1 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF).]

B. During any time when a traffic infraction or civil violation proceeding against the defendant for the same traffic infraction or civil violation based on the same conduct is pending in this State. [PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. A, §1 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF).]  
[PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. A, §1 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF).]

**3. Definitions.** For purposes of this section:

A. A civil violation is committed when every definitional component of the civil violation has occurred or, if the civil violation consists of a continuing course of conduct, at the time when the course of conduct or the defendant's complicity in the course of conduct is terminated; and [PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. A, §1 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF).]

B. A civil violation proceeding is commenced whenever a complaint or citation is filed. [PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. A, §1 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF).]  
[PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. A, §1 (NEW); PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. C, §1 (AFF).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 2001, c. 421, §A1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 421, §C1 (AFF).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.