

A bill has been passed at the state level that contain provisions aimed at helping residents get through the current state of emergency.

**LD 2167, An Act To Implement Provisions Necessary to the Health, Welfare and Safety of the Citizens of Maine in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

This bill provides the Governor with the following additional powers for the duration of the state of emergency to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

**LICENCES AND REGISTRATIONS:**

Vehicle, trailer, ATV, boat, and snowmobile registrations that expire, including temporary registrations, during the state of emergency are extended until 30 days following the termination of the state of emergency. Dog licenses that expire during the state of emergency are extended until 30 days following the termination of the state of emergency.

Link to website for online registrations: <https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/>

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:**

The waiting period for unemployment insurance is waived for an individual who is laid off or on a temporary leave of absence as a result of the state of emergency.

**PLASTIC BAG BAN POSTPONEMENT:**

The plastic bag ban has been postponed from April 22, 2020 to January 15, 2021.

**CREATION OF A LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM:**

Available to any resident of Maine, including self-employed Mainers, who have experienced a reduction in income since January 1, 2020 due to circumstances related to COVID-19. An affected individual may need to provide to the credit union or financial institution proof of lost income such as a pay stub or bank statement indicating earned income in any 3 months prior to March 1, 2020. The amount of the loan is no more than five thousand dollars or the affected individual's most recent monthly after-tax pay.

**STATE ELECTION:**

For the elections scheduled to be held on June 9, 2020, the Governor may facilitate voting by all residents registered to vote in this State in a manner that preserves and protects public health in response to COVID-19.

**MUNICIPAL BUDGETS, TAXES AND ELECTIONS:**

Towns are allowed to use last year's budget as this year's budget. Property taxes may be assessed based on last year's budget. Municipal officers may postpone the date of a scheduled municipal elections.

**SCHOOL BUDGETS:**

A school board may delay a school budget meeting otherwise required to be held before July 1, 2020 to a date on or after July 1, 2020. When a school budget meeting is delayed under this section, the school

administrative unit may continue operation of the unit at the same budget levels as were approved for the previous year.

**The full text of the bill can be found here:**