Maine

Overall Ranking: Bottom Tier

### Maine Research Facility Protection Law

Maine does not have a specific law designed to protect research facilities.

### Maine Animal Cruelty Law

**ME. REV. STAT. ANN. TIT. 7, § 4011 (2010). Cruelty to animals.**

2. **Affirmative defenses.** It is an affirmative defense to this section that:

   A. The conduct was performed by a licensed veterinarian or was a part of scientific research governed by
accepted standards;

B. The conduct was designed to control or eliminate rodents, ants or other common pests on the defendant's own property;

C. The conduct involved the use of live animals as bait or in the training of other animals in accordance with the laws of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Title 12, Part 13; or

D. The animal is kept as part of an agricultural operation and in compliance with best management practices for animal husbandry as determined by the department.

Evidence of proper care of any animal shall not be admissible in the defense of alleged cruelty to other animals.

ME. REV. STAT. ANN. TIT. 17, § 1031 (2010). Cruelty to animals.

1-D. Licensed veterinarian. A licensed veterinarian or a person certified under section 1042 may kill a cat or dog according to the methods of euthanasia under subchapter 4.

2. Affirmative defense. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that:

A. The defendant's conduct conformed to accepted veterinary practice or was a part of scientific research governed by accepted standards;

B. The defendant's conduct or that of the defendant's agent was designed to control or eliminate rodents, ants or other common pests on the defendant's own property;

C. The defendant's conduct involved the use of live animals as bait or in the training of other animals in accordance with the laws of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Title 12, Part 13; or

D. The animal is kept as part of an agricultural operation and in compliance with best management practices for animal husbandry as determined by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

Evidence of proper care of any animal is not admissible in the defense of alleged cruelty to other animals.

Maine Freedom of Access Act


The Legislature finds and declares that public proceedings exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the Legislature that their actions be taken openly and that the records of their actions be open to public
inspection and their deliberations be conducted openly. It is further the intent of the Legislature that clandestine meetings, conferences or meetings held on private property without proper notice and ample opportunity for attendance by the public not be used to defeat the purposes of this subchapter.

This subchapter shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes and policies as contained in the declaration of legislative intent.

ME. REV. STAT. ANN. TIT. 1 § 402 (2010). Definitions.

3. Public records. The term “public records” means any written, printed or graphic matter or any mechanical or electronic data compilation from which information can be obtained, directly or after translation into a form susceptible of visual or aural comprehension, that is in the possession or custody of an agency or public official of this State or any of its political subdivisions, or is in the possession or custody of an association, the membership of which is composed exclusively of one or more of any of these entities, and has been received or prepared for use in connection with the transaction of public or governmental business or contains information relating to the transaction of public or governmental business, except:

   A. Records that have been designated confidential by statute;

   ...

   E. Records, working papers, interoffice and intraoffice memoranda used by or prepared for faculty and administrative committees of the Maine Maritime Academy, the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply to the boards of trustees and the committees and subcommittees of those boards, which are referred to in subsection 2, paragraph B;

   ...

   O. Personal contact information concerning public employees, except when that information is public pursuant to other law. For the purposes of this paragraph:

(1) “Personal contact information” means home address, home telephone number, home facsimile number, home e-mail address and personal cellular telephone number and personal pager number; and

(2) “Public employee” means an employee as defined in Title 14, section 8102, subsection 1, except that “public employee” does not include elected officials;
Maine Harassment Law


1. A person is guilty of harassment by telephone if:

   A. By means of telephone he makes any comment, request, suggestion or proposal which is, in fact, offensively coarse or obscene, without the consent of the person called;

   B. He makes a telephone call, whether or not conversation ensues, without disclosing his identity and with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any person at the called number;

   C. He makes or causes the telephone of another repeatedly or continuously to ring, with intent to harass any person at the called number;

   D. He makes repeated telephone calls, during which conversation ensues, with the intent to harass any person at the called number; or

   E. He knowingly permits any telephone under his control to be used for any purpose prohibited by this section.

2. The crime defined in this section may be prosecuted and punished in the county in which the defendant was located when he used the telephone, or in the county in which the telephone called or made to ring by the defendant was located.

3. Harassment by telephone is a Class E crime.

Other


1. A person is guilty of disorderly conduct if:

   A. In a public place, the person intentionally or recklessly causes annoyance to others by intentionally:

      (1) Making loud and unreasonable noises;

      (2) Activating a device, or exposing a substance, that releases noxious and offensive odors; or

      (3) Engaging in fighting, without being licensed or privileged to do so;

   B. In a public or private place, the person knowingly accosts, insults, taunts or challenges any person with
offensive, derisive or annoying words, or by gestures or other physical conduct, that would in fact have a direct tendency to cause a violent response by an ordinary person in the situation of the person so accosted, insulted, taunted or challenged;

C. In a private place, the person makes loud and unreasonable noise that can be heard by another person, who may be a law enforcement officer, as unreasonable noise in a public place or in another private place, after having been ordered by a law enforcement officer to cease the noise; or

...  

3. Disorderly conduct is a Class E crime.