

§158-A. Immunity for charitable directors, officers and volunteers

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Charitable organization" means any nonprofit organization organized or incorporated in this State or having a principal place of business in this State:

(1) That is exempt from federal income taxation under the United States Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(a), because it is described in Section 501(c)(3), (4), (6) as it pertains to chambers of commerce only, (10), (13), (14)(A) or (19), including all subsequent amendments to those paragraphs. An organization is included in this subparagraph if it would be exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) but for its engaging in attempting to influence legislation to the extent that it is disqualified from tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3); or

(2) That is:

(a) Organized under the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act for any of the purposes listed in Title 13-B, section 201, subsection 1, paragraph A;

(b) Organized under the provisions set forth in Title 13-B, section 201, subsection 2, paragraph A;

(c) Organized under the provisions of Title 13-B, section 201, subsection 3, paragraph D or E;

(d) Organized in Maine as a nonprofit corporation before January 1, 1978, for any of the purposes listed in Title 13-B, section 201, subsection 1, paragraph A, and to which the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act applies; or

(e) Organized as a rural electrification cooperative under the provisions of Title 35-A, chapter 37.

This subparagraph applies to all subsequent amendments to the statutes covered by divisions (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). [PL 2007, c. 366, §1 (AMD).]

B. "Director" means a person who serves without compensation, except that the person may be paid for expenses, on the board of trustees or board of directors of a charitable organization. [PL 1987, c. 646, §2 (NEW).]

C. "Officer" means a person who serves without compensation, except that the person may be paid for expenses, as an officer of a charitable organization. [PL 1987, c. 646, §2 (NEW).]

D. "Volunteer" means a person who provides services without compensation, except that the person may be paid for expenses, to a charitable organization. [PL 1987, c. 646, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 2007, c. 366, §1 (AMD).]

2. Immunity. A director, officer or volunteer is immune from civil liability for personal injury, death or property damage, including any monetary loss:

A. When the cause of action sounds in negligence and arises from an act or omission by the director, officer or volunteer which occurs within the course and scope of the activities of the charitable organization in which the director, officer or volunteer serves; or [PL 1987, c. 646, §2 (NEW).]

B. Arising from any act or omission, not personal to the director, officer or volunteer, which occurs within the course and scope of the activities of the charitable organization in which the director, officer or volunteer serves. [PL 1987, c. 646, §2 (NEW).]
[PL 1987, c. 646, §2 (NEW).]

3. Limited waiver of immunity while operating vehicles, vessels or aircraft. Notwithstanding any immunity granted in subsection 2, a director, officer or volunteer is considered to have waived immunity from liability when the cause of action arises out of the director's, officer's or volunteer's operation of a motor vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other vehicle for which the operator or the owner of the vehicle, vessel or craft is required to possess an operator's license or maintain insurance. The amount of damages in an action authorized by this section may not exceed the combined limits of coverage of any applicable insurance policies other than umbrella insurance coverage and the courts shall abate a verdict in an action to the extent that it exceeds such limits. A provision in a policy of insurance that attempts to exclude coverage for claims that are authorized by this section is void as contrary to public policy.

[PL 1999, c. 572, §1 (NEW); PL 1999, c. 572, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 646, §2 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 389 (AMD). PL 1991, c. 795, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 572, §1 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 572, §2 (AFF). PL 2007, c. 366, §1 (AMD).

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 Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. 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.