

By letter dated July 21, 1995, the Maine Human Rights Commission requested that the Department of Justice (Department) certify that the Maine Human Rights Act, 5 MRSA § 4553 *et seq.*, as implemented by the Maine Accessibility Regulations (together, the Maine law), meets or exceeds the new construction and alterations requirements of title III of the ADA.

The Department has analyzed the Maine law and has preliminarily determined that it meets or exceeds the new construction and alterations requirements of title III of the ADA. By letter dated September 23, 1997, the Department notified the Maine Human Rights Commission of its preliminary determination of equivalency.

Effect of Certification

The certification determination will be limited to the version of the Maine law that has been submitted to the department. The certification will not apply to amendments or interpretations that have not been submitted and reviewed by the Department.

Certification will not apply to buildings constructed by or for State or local government entities, which are subject to title II of the ADA. Nor does certification apply to accessibility requirements that are addressed by the Maine law that are not addressed by the ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Finally, certification does not apply to variances or waivers granted under the Maine law. Therefore, if a builder receives a variance, waiver, modification, or other exemption from the requirements of the Maine law for any element of construction or alternations, the certification determination will not constitute evidence of ADA compliance with respect to that element.

Procedure

The department will hold informal hearings in Washington, D.C. and Augusta, Maine to provide an opportunity for interested persons, including individuals with disabilities, to express their views with respect to the preliminary determination of equivalency of the Maine law. Interested parties who wish to testify at a hearing should contact Tito Mercado at (202) 307-0663 (Voice/TDD). This is not a toll-free number.

The hearing sites will be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aids should contact Tito Mercado at (202) 307-0663 (Voice/TDD). This is not a toll-free number.

Dated: September 22, 1997.

Isabelle Katz Pinzler,

Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

[FR Doc. 97-25993 Filed 10-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights

Certification of the Maine Human Rights Act Under the Americans With Disabilities Act

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice of hearings.

SUMMARY: The Department of Justice will hold informal hearings on the proposed certification that the Maine Human Rights Act, 5 MRSA § 4553 *et seq.*, as implemented by the Maine Accessibility Regulations, meets or exceeds the new construction and alterations requirements of title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in Washington, D.C. and Augusta, Maine.

DATES: The hearing in Augusta, Maine is scheduled for Friday, October 17, 1997 at 10:00 AM, Eastern Time. The hearing in Washington, D.C. is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 1997, at 2:00 PM, Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: The hearings will be held at: Augusta, Maine: Room 113, State Office Building, Augusta, Maine. Washington, D.C.: Disability Rights Section, 1425 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 4039, Washington, D.C.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John L. Wodatch, Chief, Disability Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, P.O. Box 66738, Washington, D.C. 20035-6738. Telephone number (800) 514-0301 (Voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TDD).

Copies of this notice are available in formats accessible to individuals with vision impairments and may be obtained by calling (800) 514-0301 (Voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TDD).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, the Department of Justice (Department) is publishing a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing that it had preliminarily determined that the State of Maine Human Rights Act, 5 MRSA § 4533 *et seq.*, as implemented by the Maine Accessibility Regulations (together, the Maine law), meets or exceeds the new construction and alterations requirements of title III of the

ADA. The Department also noted that it intended to issue final certification of the Maine law and requested written comments on the preliminary determination and the proposed final certification. Finally, the Department noted that it intended to hold informal hearings in Washington, D.C. and Augusta, Maine.

The purpose of the informal hearings is to provide an opportunity for interested persons, including individuals with disabilities, to express their views with respect to the preliminary determination of equivalency of the Maine law. Interested parties who wish to testify at a hearing should contact Tito Mercado at (202) 307-0663 (Voice/TDD). This is not a toll-free number.

The meeting sites will be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aids should contact Tito Mercado at (202) 307-0663 (Voice/TDD). This is not a toll-free number.

Dated: September 22, 1997.

Isabelle Katz Pinzler,

Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

[FR Doc. 97-25994 Filed 10-1-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

[Application No. D-10159, et al.]

Proposed Exemptions; State Street Bank and Trust

AGENCY: Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Notice of proposed exemptions.

SUMMARY: This document contains notices of pendency before the Department of Labor (the Department) of proposed exemptions from certain of the prohibited transaction restrictions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (the Act) and/or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code).

Written Comments and Hearing Requests

All interested persons are invited to submit written comments or request for a hearing on the pending exemptions, unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Proposed Exemption, within 45 days from the date of publication of this **Federal Register** Notice. Comments and requests for a hearing should state: (1) The name, address, and telephone