

How to Form an LLC in Maine Yourself (2026 Costs and Steps)

A free step-by-step guide from BusinessOwner.com. State information verified from official sources on September 15, 2026.

Quick answer

The total state cost to file by mail is \$175. You file the Certificate of Formation (Form MLLC-6) with the Maine Secretary of State, Division of Corporations, UCC and Commissions at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/corporations-commissions/i-need-a-business-form/limited-liability-company-forms>. As of September 15, 2026, one Maine Secretary of State page stated a processing time of 25 to 30 business days and another stated 40 to 55 business days.

Step 1: Check that your LLC name is available

Search the Maine Secretary of State's business name records before filing to ensure your desired name is available.

Step 2: Choose a registered agent

You may serve as your own registered agent or use a commercial registered agent. A noncommercial registered agent may be an individual who serves in Maine as the agent for service of process, which allows a member to serve. The certificate requires the agent's physical location (not a P.O. box), and the agent must consent to serve.

Step 3: File your Certificate of Formation (Form MLLC-6)

Complete Form MLLC-6 and mail it to the agency. The filing fee is \$175. You may pay additional fees for expedited processing if needed. A 24-hour expedited filing (next business day) costs an additional \$50 per entity and is requested on the MLLC-6 customer contact cover letter. An Immediate expedited filing (same business day) costs an additional \$100 per entity, but availability depends on staffing.

Step 4: Create an operating agreement

Create an operating agreement to outline ownership, roles, voting procedures, and what happens if a member leaves. This document helps define the structure of your LLC.

Step 5: Get your EIN from the IRS

Get your Employer Identification Number from the IRS for free at <https://www.irs.gov/ein>.

Step 6: Keep your LLC in good standing

File an Annual Report (MLLC-13) each year between January 1 and June 1, starting the calendar year after formation. The fee is \$85. A late filing penalty applies after June 1. You can file online via Annual Reports Online or on a preprinted paper form. Maine does not require a newspaper publication for LLCs.

Frequently asked questions

How much does it cost to form an LLC in Maine?

The total state cost to file by mail is \$175, which includes the filing fee. A 24-hour expedited filing (next business day) costs an additional \$50 per entity. An Immediate expedited filing (same business day) costs an additional \$100 per entity, but availability depends on staffing.

When is the annual report due?

The annual report is due between January 1 and June 1 each year, starting the calendar year after formation.

Can I serve as my own registered agent in Maine?

Yes, a member may serve as a noncommercial registered agent if they serve in Maine as the agent for service of process. The agent must provide a physical location and consent to serve.

Does Maine require LLCs to publish their formation in newspapers?

No, Maine does not require newspaper publication for LLCs.

What happens if I file my annual report late?

A late filing penalty applies after June 1.

Want us to file it for you? \$249 plus state fees.

Want the whole business set up? Book a call with BusinessOwner.com.

Sources

Official sources, last verified September 15, 2026:

- [Limited Liability Company Forms | SOS](https://www.maine.gov/sos/corporations-commissions/i-need-a-business-form/limited-liability-company-forms)
<https://www.maine.gov/sos/corporations-commissions/i-need-a-business-form/limited-liability-company-forms>
- [www.maine.gov: mllc6.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/sos/sites/maine.gov.sos/files/inline-files/mllic6.pdf)
<https://www.maine.gov/sos/sites/maine.gov.sos/files/inline-files/mllic6.pdf>
- [Forming a Business | SOS](https://www.maine.gov/sos/corporations-commissions/corporations/forming-a-business)
<https://www.maine.gov/sos/corporations-commissions/corporations/forming-a-business>
- [Filing Requirement Reminders | SOS](#)

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/corporations-commissions/incorporating-resources/corporations-commissions/filing-requirement-reminders>

- [www.maine.gov: 250c200-4.doc](https://www.maine.gov/sos/sites/maine.gov.sos/files/content/assets/250c200-4.doc)

<https://www.maine.gov/sos/sites/maine.gov.sos/files/content/assets/250c200-4.doc>

- [Title 31, Â§1665:Â Annual report for Secretary of State](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/31/title31sec1665.html)

<https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/31/title31sec1665.html>

- [Title 5, Â§102:Â Definitions](https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/5/title5sec102.html)

<https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/5/title5sec102.html>

- [Corporations Division: Forms and Fees](https://apps3.web.maine.gov/nei-sos-icrs/ICRS)

<https://apps3.web.maine.gov/nei-sos-icrs/ICRS>

- [IRS: Get an employer identification number](https://www.irs.gov/ein)

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