

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 670

H.P. 438

House of Representatives, February 25, 2025

An Act to Address Coercive Control in Domestic Abuse Cases

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 20, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, COPELAND of Saco, GRAHAM of North
Yarmouth, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, ROEDER of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay, WEBB of
Durham, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§1, ¶G**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 647, Pt. A, §3
3 and affected by Pt. B, §65, is amended to read:

4 G. Engaging in the unauthorized dissemination of certain private images as prohibited
5 pursuant to Title 17-A, section 511-A; or

6 **Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§1, ¶H**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 647, Pt. A, §3
7 and affected by Pt. B, §65, is amended to read:

8 H. Engaging in aggravated sex trafficking or sex trafficking as described in Title 17-A,
9 section 852 or 853, respectively; or

10 **Sec. 3. 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§1, ¶I** is enacted to read:

11 I. Engaging in coercive control of a person.

12 **Sec. 4. 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

13 **2-A. Coercive control.** "Coercive control" means a pattern of behavior designed to
14 dominate, isolate, manipulate or exploit a person who is a dating partner or a family or
15 household member. "Coercive control" includes:

16 A. Limiting the access of the person to financial resources or employment;

17 B. Monitoring or restricting movements, communications or daily activities of the
18 person;

19 C. Isolating the person from friends, family or support systems;

20 D. Using intimidation, threats or coercion against the person to create fear or
21 dependency; and

22 E. Exploiting vulnerabilities of the person such as immigration status, disabilities or
23 mental health conditions.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill adds coercive control to the definition of "abuse" and defines the term
26 "coercive control" in the protection from abuse laws.