

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 695

Date: 4/3/24

(Filing No. S-629)

REPORT C

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "C" to S.P. 312, L.D. 695, "An Act Regarding the Laws of the State of Maine"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Develop Recommendations for Improving the Safety and Security of Legislators and Their Families'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, members of the Legislature and their families are facing increasing threats to their physical safety and security; and

Whereas, threats to the safety and security of public servants, including members of the Legislature and their families, are a growing concern and must be addressed as quickly as possible; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Commissioner of Public Safety to convene stakeholder group to examine issues related to physical safety and security of Legislators and their families. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Public Safety, referred to in this resolve as "the commissioner," shall convene a stakeholder group to examine issues related to the physical safety and security of members of the Legislature and their families and develop recommendations for improving the physical safety and security of members of the Legislature and their families.

1. Membership. The stakeholder group must include, at a minimum, the following members:

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- 1 A. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including
- 2 one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one
- 3 member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature, with
- 4 priority given to members with a background in security or public safety;
- 5 B. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the
- 6 House, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the
- 7 Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the
- 8 Legislature, with priority given to members with a background in security or public
- 9 safety;
- 10 C. One member of the public appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 11 D. The Chief of the State Police or the chief's designee;
- 12 E. The executive director of a statewide association representing sheriffs or the
- 13 executive director's designee;
- 14 F. The executive director of a statewide association representing chiefs of police or
- 15 the executive director's designee; and
- 16 G. The chair of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices or the
- 17 chair's designee, who must be a member of the commission.

18 **2. Duties and recommendations.** The stakeholder group shall examine issues related
 19 to increasing threats to the physical safety and security of members of the Legislature and
 20 their families. The stakeholder group shall:

- 21 A. Collect information on the number of threats received by members of the
- 22 Legislature and their families in the 132nd Legislature;
- 23 B. Consult with organizations that have professional experience in protecting the
- 24 safety and security of public officials and their families, such as the United States
- 25 Department of Homeland Security, United States Secret Service, to understand current
- 26 best practices nationally for ensuring the safety and security of public officials and their
- 27 families;
- 28 C. Consult with organizations with expertise in state legislatures, including but not
- 29 limited to the National Conference of State Legislatures;
- 30 D. Develop best practices specific to the physical safety and security of members of
- 31 the Legislature and their families;
- 32 E. Identify or create educational materials that may be distributed to members of the
- 33 Legislature and their families that identify resources available to both proactively and
- 34 reactively address threats to the physical safety and security of members of the
- 35 Legislature and their families; and
- 36 F. Identify opportunities for education and training for members of the Legislature on
- 37 best practices to increase their safety and security and the safety and security of their
- 38 families.

39 The stakeholder group shall examine and make recommendations regarding the
 40 information obtained pursuant to this subsection.

41 **3. Report.** The commissioner shall submit a report to the Executive Director of the
 42 Legislative Council, the Legislative Council and the Joint Standing Committee on State

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "C" to S.P. 312, L.D. 695 (S.629)

1 and Local Government with its findings and recommendations no later than November 4,
2 2026. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and
3 local government matters may report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based
4 on the report.

5 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
6 takes effect when approved.'

7 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
8 number to read consecutively.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This amendment, which is a minority report of the committee, replaces the bill, which
11 is a concept draft, with a resolve. The amendment directs the Commissioner of Public
12 Safety to convene a stakeholder group to examine issues related to the physical safety and
13 security of members of the Legislature and their families and develop recommendations
14 for improving the physical safety and security of members of the Legislature and their
15 families. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause.

16 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**
17 (See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 695

LR 2170(04)

An Act Regarding the Laws of the State of Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "C" (S-629)

Committee: State and Local Government

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$1,400 in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$1,400 in fiscal year 2026-27. The Legislature's budget for the 2026-2027 biennium includes \$7,253 in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$17,696 in fiscal year 2026-27 for the costs of legislative studies, as well as \$41,338 of balances carried over from prior fiscal years for this purpose. Whether these amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Public Safety to adopt the changes in this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.