

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 809

H.P. 516

House of Representatives, March 4, 2025

**An Act to Allow a Motion to Extend a Protection from Abuse Order
After Expiration of the Original Order**

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 27, 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 KUHN of Falmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: LEE of Auburn, MEYER of Eliot, SINCLAIR of Bath, STOVER of
Boothbay.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §4111, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Extension after expiration.** The court may extend a final protection order issued
4 under this chapter after expiration, upon motion of the plaintiff, only if the court finds:

5 A. That the filing under this subsection is within a reasonable amount of time based
6 upon the underlying circumstances; or

7 B. That the filing under this subsection was not timely filed due to a dismissal of a
8 prior motion to extend because of the inability to serve the defendant.

9 If the court makes a finding for the plaintiff under paragraph A or B, the court shall follow
10 subsection 1 to determine whether an extension of the final protection order is necessary to
11 protect the plaintiff or minor child from abuse or conduct specified in section 4103.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill requires a court to grant a motion to extend an expired final protection from
14 abuse order only if the court finds that the lateness of filing is reasonable based on the
15 underlying circumstances or that the filing was not timely due to the inability to serve the
16 defendant.