

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

L.D. 1965

Date: 2/18/26

(Filing No. S-505)

JUDICIARY

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

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 772, L.D. 1965, "Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan"

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the emergency preamble and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. University of Maine System to convene task force. Resolved: That the University of Maine System shall convene a task force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to create a court navigation program plan. The membership of the task force must consist of at least one representative from each of the following:

- 1. The schools of social work of the University of Maine System;
- 2. The University of Maine School of Law;
- 3. Maine Pretrial Services, Inc.;
- 4. Pine Tree Legal Assistance;
- 5. Disability Rights Maine;
- 6. The National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine;
- 7. 211 Maine;
- 8. The Department of Health and Human Services; and
- 9. The judicial branch.

Sec. 2. Court navigation program plan. Resolved: That the task force shall examine court navigation programs nationwide, recommend a model for a court navigation program for use in the State and create a plan for implementing the program. At a minimum, the court navigation program model recommended by the task force must be designed to:

- 1. Provide guidance and information about court processes and procedures to persons involved with the court system;

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34

2. Provide persons involved with the court system referrals to community-based resources related to their behavioral health needs, such as mental health treatment and substance use disorder treatment, and their economic and social service-related needs, such as housing, employment, transportation and food, in order to address those needs; and

3. Be operated, in significant part, by social work students and law students who have the opportunity to earn academic credit for their participation in the operation of the court navigation program.

In pursuing its duties under this section, the task force shall consult with advocates for persons who are unhoused, for survivors of domestic violence, for survivors of sexual assault and for other identifiable populations who may particularly benefit from the assistance of the court navigation program.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2027, the task force shall submit a report that includes the court navigation program plan required by section 2, including a model for a court navigation program for use in this State, and that includes suggested legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the subject matter of the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

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

SUMMARY

This amendment requires the task force convened by the University of Maine System in the resolve to include at least one representative from the judicial branch and to consult with advocates for persons who are unhoused, for survivors of domestic violence, for survivors of sexual assault and for other identifiable populations who may particularly benefit from a court navigation program. It also requires that the task force recommend a model for a court navigation program designed to be operated, in significant part, by social work students and law students who have the opportunity to earn academic credit for their participation in the program.

The amendment also changes from December 3, 2025 to January 15, 2027 the date by which the task force must submit a report with the recommended model for a court navigation program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1965

LR 1872(04)

Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (5505)
Committee: Judiciary
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the University of Maine System to convene, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Disability Rights Maine and Pine Tree Legal Assistance to participate, in the task force are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.