MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION December 4, 2024 to March 21, 2025

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION March 25, 2025 to June 25, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR FIRST REGULAR SESSION NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS JUNE 20, 2025

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PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED, TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine 2025

CHAPTER 138 H.P. 266 - L.D. 412

An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Self-administered Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Collection Kits

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

- Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2915-A is enacted to read:
- §2915-A. Sale of self-administered sexual assault forensic evidence collection kit prohibited
- 1. **Definitions.** As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings.
 - A. "Person" has the same meaning as in Title 5, section 206, subsection 2.
 - B. "Self-administered sexual assault forensic evidence collection kit" means materials advertised or marketed as a means for a person other than a licensed hospital or licensed health care practitioner to collect physical evidence of a sexual assault.
 - C. "Sexual assault" has the same meaning as in section 2915, subsection 3-A.
- **2. Prohibition.** A person may not sell or offer for sale a self-administered sexual assault forensic evidence collection kit.
- **3.** Admissibility. This section does not affect the admissibility in a court proceeding of evidence collected using a self-administered sexual assault forensic evidence collection kit.
- **4. Violation.** There is a rebuttable presumption that a violation of this section is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 139 S.P. 191 - L.D. 458

An Act Regarding the Domestic Violence Advocate Privilege

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

- **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §6001, sub-§6, ¶H,** as amended by PL 2017, c. 455, §3, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:
 - (1) A statement signed by a Maine-based sexual assault counselor as defined in Title 16, section 53-A, subsection 1, paragraph B, an a domestic violence advocate as defined in Title

- 16, section 53-B, subsection 1, paragraph A A-4 or a victim witness advocate as defined in Title 16, section 53-C, subsection 1, paragraph C:
- **Sec. 2. 16 MRSA §53-B,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 478, §§3 to 6 and c. 588, Pt. E, §10, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§53-B. Privileged communications to vietim domestic violence advocate; family violence

- **Sec. 3. 16 MRSA §53-B, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2013, c. 478, §§3 to 5, is further amended to read:
- **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.
 - A. "Advocate" means an employee of or volunteer for a nongovernmental or Maine tribal program for victims of domestic or family violence who:
 - (1) Has undergone at least 30 hours of training; and
 - (2) As a primary function with the program gives advice to, counsels or assists victims, supervises employees or volunteers who perform that function or administers the program.
 - A-1. "Confidential communications" means all information, whether written or oral, transmitted between a victim and a domestic violence advocate in the course of the working relationship. "Confidential communications" includes, but is not limited to, information received or given by the domestic violence advocate in the course of the working relationship, advice, records, reports, notes, memoranda, working papers, electronic communications, case files, history and statistical data, including name, date of birth and social security number, that personally identify the victim.
 - A-2. "Confidential criminal history record information" has the same meaning as in section 703, subsection 2.
 - A-3. "Criminal justice agency" has the same meaning as in section 703, subsection 4.
 - A-4. "Domestic violence advocate" means an employee of or volunteer for a domestic violence services provider who has undergone at least 40 hours of training from a domestic violence services provider that, at a minimum, includes:
 - (1) State and federal laws, rules and regulations on confidentiality and other protections for victims of domestic violence;
 - (2) Mandated reporting;
 - (3) Civil and criminal legal processes in the State;
 - (4) Advocacy skills; and