

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

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TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

CHAPTER 174
H.P. 1102 - L.D. 1661

**Resolve, Requiring a Review
and Assessment of the State's
Invasive Species Management
Efforts**

Sec. 1. Review and assessment of State's invasive species management efforts. Resolved: That, within existing budgeted resources, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, referred to in this resolve as "the departments," shall conduct a review and assessment of the State's invasive species management efforts. The departments shall collaborate with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Marine Resources, other state agencies and local units of government and nongovernmental organizations in conducting the review and assessment. The review and assessment must include a summary of existing interagency working groups and other collaborative efforts focused on invasive species, including, but not limited to, invasive aquatic species and invasive terrestrial plants. In conducting the review and assessment, the departments shall explore opportunities for increased collaboration and efficiency and funding opportunities for projects related to the control and management of invasive species, education and outreach efforts and projects aimed at early detection and prevention of invasive species.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by January 31, 2027, the departments shall submit a report detailing the results of the review and assessment under section 1, including any findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters; inland fisheries and wildlife matters; marine resources matters; and environment and natural resources matters. Each joint standing committee may submit legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 175
H.P. 482 - L.D. 740

**Resolve, to Study Methods for
Improving Youth Community
Supervision and Increasing
Juvenile Diversion from
Formal Judicial Processing**

Sec. 1. Department of Corrections to convene task force. Resolved: That the Department of Corrections shall convene a task force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to study methods for diverting youths safely from formal judicial processing and to

recommend improvements to existing community supervision practices.

Sec. 2. Task force members. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Corrections shall appoint the following 12 members to the task force:

1. One member who is a regional correctional administrator within the Department of Corrections;
2. One member who is a regional correctional manager within the Department of Corrections;
3. One member who is a juvenile community corrections officer within the Department of Corrections;
4. One member with expertise in youth development and children's behavioral health within the Department of Health and Human Services;
5. One member who is an active, active retired or retired judge or justice with experience in the juvenile justice system, recommended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court;
6. One member who is a prosecutor with experience in the juvenile justice system;
7. One member who is a defense attorney with experience in the juvenile justice system;
8. One member with experience in youth development and juvenile justice data analysis and research within the University of Maine System;
9. One member from a community-based program or organization designed to divert youth from the juvenile justice system;
10. One member with expertise and experience in youth law and policy development;
11. One member who has personal experience with the juvenile justice system; and
12. One member who is related to a youth who has been involved in the juvenile justice system.

Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall:

1. Identify, describe and collect data on diversion of youth from Department of Corrections supervision prior to formal court involvement, including no further action determinations and informal adjustments;
2. Identify obstacles and improvements to diversions that will help ensure the Department of Corrections is able to divert youths from the formal juvenile court process when appropriate;
3. To the extent possible, establish at least one pilot site to design and implement methods for diverting youths from the juvenile justice system, with a particular focus on increasing diversion from Department of Corrections supervision and court involvement; and

4. To the extent possible and appropriate, develop and implement a family-engaged case planning process for all youth under Department of Corrections supervision.

Sec. 4. Update. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Corrections shall provide an update to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters on the work of the task force. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the update to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 176

H.P. 1300 - L.D. 1941

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Examine the Intersection of Parole and Current Sentencing Practices

Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Examine the Intersection of Parole and Current Sentencing Practices, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 16 members as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including at least one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;
4. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
5. A district attorney, designated by an association representing prosecutors in the State;
6. A representative of an organization advocating for the interests of persons who are incarcerated, appointed by the President of the Senate;
7. A member who is an expert in criminal procedure, appointed by the President of the Senate;
8. A member with experience in the fields of criminal sentencing or criminology or with experience in administering parole, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

9. A representative of an organization advocating for the interests of racial minorities, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

10. A member who is currently incarcerated in a correctional facility in this State, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

11. A member who is a criminal defense attorney, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

12. A member who is a member of Maine Pretrial Services, Inc., appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

13. An active or retired judge or justice, designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court.

The membership of the commission must reflect the diversity of the State, including, but not limited to, diversity in geographic location, cultural and ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity and professional experience.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 120 days following the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 120 days or more after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall examine parole as it currently operates in this State and in other states and shall consider:

1. How parole fits in with the overall sentencing framework of the Maine Revised Statutes, including the intersection of parole with probation and the supervised community confinement program operated by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Title 34-A, section 3036-A;
2. The consequences of reestablishing retrospective or prospective parole, including an exploration of the laws and experience of any other states that have recently established or reestablished parole; and
3. The decision-making process that should be employed by the State Parole Board, including any training required to ensure parity between sentencing decisions made by the courts and parole decisions made by the board.