

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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December 2021

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

LD 947 An Act To Address the Long-term Impact of Economic Abuse by a Spouse

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 122 adds economic abuse by a spouse as a factor the court can consider when ordering spousal support and dividing marital property.

LD 952 An Act To Limit Liability Regarding Donations of Menstrual Products

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 178 provides immunity from civil and criminal liability arising from an injury or death for good faith donors, including hospitals and other health care facilities, of menstrual products that are donated to bona fide charitable and nonprofit organizations. It also provides the same immunity to the charitable and nonprofit organizations that distribute those donations.

LD 957 An Act To Authorize Expanded Deferred Disposition Requirements

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 338 authorizes a court to include in the deferred disposition requirements that the person participate for a specified number of days in a program run by a county sheriff that may involve overnight housing, community service work and education. It authorizes the participation in public works projects by those subject to a deferred disposition.

LD 1030 An Act Regarding Courts' Authority To Protect Children When a Parent Has Been Awarded Sole Parental Rights and Responsibilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 340 was proposed by the Family Law Advisory Commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 354, subsection 2. Chapter 340 expands courts' authority to protect children when a parent has been awarded sole parental rights and responsibilities in two ways. First, it amends the Maine Uniform Probate Code to ensure the court has authority to appoint a guardian for a minor upon the death of the parent who was awarded exclusive parental rights and responsibilities. Second, it provides a process to allow, in very limited situations, one parent to file a petition to terminate another parent's parental rights and responsibilities outside of an adoption proceeding.

The Maine Uniform Probate Code currently allows a court to appoint a guardian for a minor when the court finds the appointment is in the best interest of the minor and the court finds by clear and