

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
132<sup>ND</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

August 2025

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## **JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

### **LD 983 An Act Regarding Service of Notice of Restricted Person Status to Hospitalized Patients**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 104 amends the law governing hospital cooperation with law enforcement agencies to allow a law enforcement agency to request that a hospital provide access to a patient for purposes of notification of restricted person status for a person taken into protective custody by a law enforcement officer due to likelihood of foreseeable harm.

### **LD 1027 An Act to Strengthen the Law Regarding Relief for Improvident Transfers of Title**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 279 requires a court to award attorney's fees in a case where it has been demonstrated that a person exerted undue influence over an elderly dependent person with respect to a property transfer.

### **LD 1101 An Act to Address the Limited Availability of Counsel in Courts to Represent Indigent Parties in Matters Affecting Their Fundamental Rights**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 40 requires the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to compensate a private attorney appointed by a court to represent a person who is eligible to receive indigent legal services if the court finds that no public defender, assigned counsel, contract counsel or employed counsel is available to represent the person; the private attorney is willing to undertake the representation; the private attorney has not been disqualified by the commission; and, if the private attorney is appointed by the trial court, the attorney has least three years of relevant legal experience or, if the private attorney is appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court, the private attorney has either three years of relevant legal experience or previously served as a law clerk analyzing relevant cases. The provision is repealed on February 1, 2026.

Public Law 2025, chapter 40 also provides funding to the commission to compensate private attorneys that this law authorizes the courts to appoint. In addition, it establishes five new Public Service Manager III positions, also known as Assistant District Defender positions, two Paralegal positions and one Legal Administrator position. The new positions are primarily responsible for providing indigent legal services to criminal defendants and parties in child protective proceedings for whom another public defender, assigned counsel, contract counsel or employed counsel is not available to represent the defendant or party and, to the extent there is additional capacity, these positions may also represent other individuals who are eligible for indigent legal services but for whom another public defender, assigned counsel, contract counsel or employed counsel is not available to represent the person.