

# 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 The provision is repealed on February 1, 2026.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.

#### ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

## **JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Finally, Public Law 2025, chapter 40 requires the commission and the judicial branch to submit reports to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary by January 1, 2026, with an update on the status of the *Robbins v. Billings, et al.*, No. CV-22-054 (Me. Superior Court) litigation, including information on any defendants who have been granted habeas corpus relief by the court and with specific information about the implementation of the provisions of this legislation. The law authorizes the committee to report out legislation in response to these reports to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Public Law 2025, chapter 40 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 23, 2025.

### **LD 1113 An Act Regarding Fairness in Sentencing for Persons Based on Age**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 420 requires that, when sentencing an individual for a Class A, Class B or Class C crime, a court consider the age of the individual at the time the conduct forming the basis for the conviction occurred, in addition to the other sentencing factors considered by the court.

### **LD 1129 An Act to Clarify Standards for Defendants' Post-judgment Motions for Relief from Protection from Abuse Orders**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 159 provides that a defendant may not file a motion to extinguish a final protection from abuse order and that a court may dismiss any such motion without hearing and before opposition is filed by the plaintiff.

### **LD 1133 An Act to Allow Electric Vehicle Charging Stations by Condominium and Residential Associations**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 280 makes any provision of bylaws or the declaration of an association of unit owners that places an unreasonable restriction on the installation or use of an electric vehicle charging station void and unenforceable beginning January 1, 2026. The law also allows a unit owner to apply to the executive board of an association of unit owners to gain approval to install an electric vehicle charging station in a unit parking space or limited common element parking space. The law requires the unit owner to comply with any bylaws, provide a certificate of insurance and pay for any costs associated with, and electricity usage related to, the electric vehicle charging station. A prevailing party in an action to seek compliance with these provisions must be awarded reasonable attorney's fees.