

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND 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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JANET STOCCO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
ELIAS MURPHY, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

LD 1801 An Act to Make Technical Changes to the Laws Governing the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 415 makes the following changes to the laws governing the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services.

1. It makes technical amendments to the definitions of “employed counsel” and “public defender.”
2. It provides that training materials prepared or obtained by the commission in connection with providing or preparing to provide training and evaluation programs for attorneys who are or may seek to become assigned counsel, employed counsel, public defenders or contract counsel are confidential, even if those materials are disseminated in the furtherance of the commission’s duties, for example at a commission-offered training.
3. It provides that a court must, on request, disclose otherwise confidential records associated with child protection actions to the commission for purposes of assigning, evaluating or supervising counsel.

LD 1813 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning State Boards and Commissions

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 187 requires members of state boards and commissions established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 379 to complete a course of training on the requirements of the laws relating to public records and proceedings. The law also requires a board or commission established under Title 5, chapter 379 to designate a public access officer. The public access officer may serve as the contact person for more than one board or commission if the boards or commissions are within the same office or agency.

LD 1826 An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information in Records of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 188 provides that personally identifiable information obtained by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations in furtherance of its statutory duty to carry out research necessary to determine the status of historically disadvantaged racial, indigenous and tribal populations is confidential, except that the executive director of the commission may authorize disclosure of the information if the executive director

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has obtained the consent of the individual to whom the personally identifiable information applies. The law also provides that, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 95-C, this personally identifiable information remains confidential until the relevant records have been in existence for 100 years.

LD 1827 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Requests

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

By law, a public body, agency or official may deny a request for inspection or copying of a public record on the basis that the request is unduly burdensome or oppressive by filing an action for an order of protection in the Superior Court for the county where the request was made within 60 days of the date of the request.

Public Law 2025, chapter 175 additionally permits a public body, agency or official to deny a series of public records requests on the basis that the series of requests is unduly burdensome or oppressive by filing an action for protection in Superior Court within 60 days of the point at which a body, agency or official determines that the series of requests is unduly burdensome or oppressive.

LD 1828 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 111 implements statutory changes recommended by the Right to Know Advisory Committee following its review of certain existing public records exceptions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Titles 25, 26, 27, 30-A, 31 and 32.

1. It amends the public records exceptions in Title 30-A related to applicants for county and municipal jobs to clarify that personal contact information of applicants is confidential.
2. It amends an existing public records exception in Title 32 to clarify that information included in Board of Nursing consent agreements or other written settlements that identifies or could reasonably lead to identification of a patient is confidential.
3. It amends an existing public records exception in Title 32 to clarify that email addresses of applicants to or licensees of the Board of Licensure in Medicine are confidential, and that the personal residence address and telephone number of the applicant or licensee are not confidential if this information is provided as the public contact.
4. It makes other amendments to the language of existing public records exceptions in these titles to better conform with current drafting standards.

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