

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

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Legislative Document

No. 710

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H.P. 523

House of Representatives, March 5, 2021

### An Act Regarding the Maine Criminal Code

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Reported by Representative WARREN of Hallowell for the Criminal Law Advisory Commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 1354, subsection 2.

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 3, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **PART A**

3 **Sec. A-1. 17-A MRSA §554, sub-§1, ¶B-3**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 358, §3,  
4 is further amended to read:

5 B-3. Being the parent, foster parent, guardian or other person having the care and  
6 custody of a child, knowingly deprives the child of necessary health care, with a result  
7 that the child is placed in danger of serious harm. Violation of this paragraph is a Class  
8 D crime; or

9 **Sec. A-2. 17-A MRSA §554, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 358, §3, is  
10 further amended to read:

11 C. ~~Otherwise recklessly endangers~~ Endangers the health, safety or welfare of the child  
12 by ~~recklessly~~ violating a duty of care or protection. Violation of this paragraph is a  
13 Class D crime; ~~or~~

14 **Sec. A-3. 17-A MRSA §554, sub-§1, ¶D** is enacted to read:

15 D. Endangers the health, safety or welfare of a child by recklessly violating a duty of  
16 care or protection resulting in death or serious bodily injury to the child. Violation of  
17 this paragraph is a Class C crime.

18 **PART B**

19 **Sec. B-1. 17-A MRSA §253, sub-§1, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B,  
20 §2, is further amended to read:

21 B. The other person, not the actor's spouse, has not in fact attained the age of 14 years  
22 and the actor is at least 3 years older than the other person. Violation of this paragraph  
23 is a Class A crime; or

24 **Sec. B-2. 17-A MRSA §253, sub-§1, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B,  
25 §2, is amended to read:

26 C. The other person, not the actor's spouse, has not in fact attained 12 years of age and  
27 the actor is at least 3 years older than the other person. Violation of this paragraph is  
28 a Class A crime.

29 **PART C**

30 **Sec. C-1. 15 MRSA §393, sub-§1, ¶A-1**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 470, §1, is  
31 further amended to read:

32 A-1. Has been convicted of committing or found not criminally responsible by reason  
33 of insanity of committing:

34 (1) A crime in this State that is punishable by imprisonment for a term of one year  
35 or more;

36 (2) A crime under the laws of the United States that is punishable by imprisonment  
37 for a term exceeding one year;

38 (3) A crime under the laws of ~~any other state~~ another jurisdiction that, in  
39 accordance with the laws of that jurisdiction, is punishable by a term of

1 imprisonment exceeding one year. This subparagraph does not include a crime  
2 under the laws of another state jurisdiction that is classified by the laws of that state  
3 jurisdiction as a misdemeanor and is punishable by a term of imprisonment of 2  
4 years or less;

5 (4) A crime under the laws of ~~any other state~~ another jurisdiction that, in  
6 accordance with the laws of that jurisdiction, does not come within subparagraph  
7 (3) but is elementally substantially similar to a crime in this State that is punishable  
8 by a term of imprisonment for one year or more; or

9 (5) A crime under the laws of ~~the United States, this State or any other state or the~~  
10 ~~Passamaquoddy Tribe or Penobscot Nation~~ another jurisdiction in a proceeding in  
11 which the prosecuting authority was required to plead and prove that the person  
12 committed the crime with the use of:

- 13 (a) A firearm against a person; or
- 14 (b) Any other dangerous weapon.

15 Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;

16 **Sec. C-2. 15 MRSA §393, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 470, §1, is  
17 further amended to read:

18 C. Has been adjudicated in this State or under the laws of ~~the United States or any~~  
19 ~~other state~~ another jurisdiction to have engaged in conduct as a juvenile that, if  
20 committed by an adult, would have been a disqualifying conviction:

- 21 (1) Under paragraph A-1, subparagraphs (1) to (4) and bodily injury to another  
22 person was threatened or resulted; or
- 23 (3) Under paragraph A-1, subparagraph (5).

24 Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;

25 **Sec. C-3. 15 MRSA §393, sub-§1, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 470, §1, is  
26 further amended to read:

27 D. Is subject to an order of a court of ~~the United States or a state, territory,~~  
28 ~~commonwealth~~ another jurisdiction or a tribe that restrains that person from harassing,  
29 stalking or threatening an intimate partner, as defined in 18 United States Code, Section  
30 921(a), of that person or a child of the intimate partner of that person, or from engaging  
31 in other conduct that would place the intimate partner in reasonable fear of bodily  
32 injury to the intimate partner or the child, except that this paragraph applies only to a  
33 court order that was issued after a hearing for which that person received actual notice  
34 and at which that person had the opportunity to participate and that:

- 35 (1) Includes a finding that the person represents a credible threat to the physical  
36 safety of an intimate partner or a child; or
- 37 (2) By its terms, explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use or threatened use of  
38 physical force against an intimate partner or a child that would reasonably be  
39 expected to cause bodily injury.

40 Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime;





- 1 (1) The individual has contact with a victim with whom the individual has been  
2 ordered not to have contact as a condition of probation;
- 3 (2) In the case of an individual who has been committed to the Department of  
4 Corrections, the individual has contact with any victim with whom the individual  
5 has been prohibited to have contact by the Department of Corrections; or
- 6 (3) In the case of an individual who has been committed to a county or regional  
7 jail, the individual has contact with any victim with whom the individual has been  
8 prohibited to have contact by the county or regional jail.

9 E. As to both the suspended and unsuspended portions of the sentence, the place of  
10 imprisonment must be as follows.

- 11 (1) For a Class D or Class E crime, the court must specify a county jail as the place  
12 of imprisonment.
- 13 (2) For a Class A, Class B or Class C crime, the court must:
  - 14 (a) Specify a county jail as the place of imprisonment for any portion of the  
15 sentence that is 9 months or less; and
  - 16 (b) Commit the individual to the Department of Corrections for any portion of  
17 the sentence that is more than 9 months.

18 **Sec. E-2. 17-A MRSA §1806**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is amended  
19 to read:

20 **§1806. Wholly suspended term of imprisonment with probation**

21 Unless prohibited pursuant to section 1802, subsection 1, paragraphs A to F, the court  
22 may sentence an individual to a term of imprisonment not to exceed the maximum term  
23 authorized for the crime, suspend the entire term of imprisonment and accompany the  
24 suspension with a period of probation not to exceed the maximum period authorized for  
25 the crime, to commence on the date the individual goes into actual execution of the  
26 sentence. That day is counted as the first full day of the period of probation.

27 **Sec. E-3. 17-A MRSA §1812, sub-§7**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is  
28 amended to read:

29 **7. Tolling of period of probation; conditions of probation continue in effect.** The  
30 running of the period of probation is tolled upon either the delivery of the summons, the  
31 filing of the written notice with the court that the person cannot be located or the arrest of  
32 the person. If the court finds a violation of probation, the day upon which the tolling occurs  
33 does not count toward the period of probation. If the motion is dismissed or withdrawn, or  
34 if the court finds no violation of probation, the running of the period of probation is deemed  
35 not to have been tolled. The conditions of probation continue in effect during the tolling  
36 of the running of the period of probation, and any violation of a condition subjects the  
37 person to a revocation of probation pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter.

38 **Sec. E-4. 17-A MRSA §1815** is enacted to read:

39 **§1815. Completion of period of probation**

40 A period of probation is completed when the last day of the period, excluding any days  
41 during which the running of the period of probation is tolled, ends.

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**PART F**

**Sec. F-1. 17-A MRSA §253, sub-§2, ¶M**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 438, §2, is further amended to read:

M. The other person has not expressly or impliedly acquiesced to the sexual act and the actor knows that the other person has not acquiesced. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or

**Sec. F-2. 17-A MRSA §255-A, sub-§1, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 383, §23 and affected by §156, is amended to read:

A. The other person has not expressly or impliedly acquiesced in the sexual contact and the actor knows that the other person has not acquiesced. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime;

**Sec. F-3. 17-A MRSA §255-A, sub-§1, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 383, §23 and affected by §156, is amended to read:

B. The other person has not expressly or impliedly acquiesced in the sexual contact, the actor knows that the other person has not acquiesced and the sexual contact includes penetration. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;

**Sec. F-4. 17-A MRSA §260, sub-§1, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 138, §5, is amended to read:

A. The other person has not expressly or impliedly acquiesced in the sexual touching and the actor knows that the other person has not acquiesced. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime;

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**SUMMARY**

This bill contains the following provisions.

1. In Part A it amends the crime of endangering the welfare of a child by enacting in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 554, subsection 1, paragraph D a new Class C crime for the reckless violation of a duty of care or protection that results in death or serious bodily injury to the child. It amends the crime of endangering the welfare of a child under Title 17-A, section 554, subsection 1, paragraph C to cover recklessly violating a duty of care or protection.

2. In Part B it amends the crime of gross sexual assault against a person under 12 years of age or a person under 14 years of age, both of which are Class A crimes, by requiring that the actor be at least 3 years older than the other person.

3. In Part C it amends Title 15, section 393 to recognize that convictions in the tribal courts of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation are disqualifying domestic violence convictions for the purposes of the prohibition against firearms created by Title 15, section 393, subsection 1-B. It makes Title 15, section 393 more consistent with the Maine Criminal Code by using the phrase "another jurisdiction" to reference the courts defined by that term.

4. In Part D, in response to State v. LeBlanc-Simpson, 2018 ME 109, it clarifies that a judicial officer in issuing a written release order under Title 15, section 1026, subsection 2-A or 3 must inform a defendant of the conditions of release, that the conditions take effect



1 and are fully enforceable immediately and that failure to appear or comply with conditions  
2 may result in revocation of bail and additional criminal penalties. The bill provides that a  
3 condition of release takes effect and is fully enforceable immediately as of the time the  
4 judicial officer sets the condition, unless the release order expressly excludes a condition  
5 of release from immediate applicability, if the defendant is advised of the conditions and  
6 that failure to appear or comply with the conditions may subject the defendant to revocation  
7 of bail and additional criminal penalties. This bill provides that the notice required in order  
8 for a condition of release to take effect immediately may be provided by a judicial officer,  
9 a law enforcement officer or an employee of a county or regional jail or a correctional  
10 facility having custody of the defendant.

11 5. In Part E it amends the laws governing probation to reflect the current practice of  
12 the Department of Corrections with respect to calculating the period of probation. A  
13 probationer receives credit for a full day of probation on the day probation commences,  
14 regardless of the time of day, and receives no credit for a day on which probation is tolled.  
15 The period of probation ends when the final day of the probation period ends.

16 6. In Part F it amends the law to respond to the issue identified by the Law Court in  
17 State v. Asaad, (2020 ME 11), specifically the absence of a mens rea requirement in the  
18 Class C crime of gross sexual assault under Title 17-A, section 253, subsection 2, paragraph  
19 M. The bill requires the State to prove, as an element of that crime of gross sexual assault,  
20 that the defendant engaged in the prohibited conduct knowing that the other person had not  
21 expressly or impliedly acquiesced. The same "knowing" culpable mental state element is  
22 proposed for one of the Class C crimes of unlawful sexual contact, one of the Class D  
23 crimes of unlawful sexual contact and one of the Class D crimes of unlawful sexual  
24 touching.