

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 3/28/24 Majority

L.D. 2210
(Filing No. H-877)

JUDICIARY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1417, L.D. 2210, "An Act to Establish a Civil Rights Unit and a Civil Rights Review Panel Within the Office of the Attorney General and Require Ongoing Enhanced Civil Rights Training for Civil Rights Officers"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Establish a Civil Rights Unit Within the Office of the Attorney General and Require Enhanced Ongoing Civil Rights Training for Civil Rights Officers'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §200-O by striking out all of subsection 5 (page 1, lines 30 to 32 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'5. Complaints. The office shall make available numerous methods for individuals to submit civil rights violation complaints. The confidentiality of civil rights violation complaints is governed by the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in §200-O in subsection 6 in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th lines (page 1, lines 34 to 37 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Before the unit may submit the report to the Legislature, the unit shall submit the report to the Civil Rights Review Panel established by section 200-P. The report must be submitted to the panel no later than January 1st annually."

Amend the bill in section 1 in §200-O in subsection 6 by inserting at the end a new blocked paragraph to read:

'After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over civil rights matters may report out legislation related to the report to any regular or special session of the Legislature.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2.

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §4684-C, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Ongoing enhanced civil rights training. A civil rights officer shall undergo ongoing enhanced civil rights training administered by the Maine Criminal Justice

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROS

1 Academy, as determined by the Office of the Attorney General, to remain qualified as a
2 civil rights officer.'

3 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 5.

4 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 6 and inserting the following:

5 'Sec. 6. 25 MRSA §2804-O is enacted to read:

6 **§2804-O. Ongoing enhanced civil rights training for civil rights officers**

7 A law enforcement officer qualified as a civil rights officer within the meaning of Title
8 5, section 4684-C, subsection 1, paragraph A shall undergo ongoing enhanced civil rights
9 training administered by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, as determined by the Office
10 of the Attorney General, to remain qualified as a civil rights officer.

11 **Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
12 allocations are made.

13 **ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE**

14 **Administration - Attorney General 0310**

15 Initiative: Establishes one Assistant Attorney General position and one Paralegal position
16 effective September 1, 2024 to coordinate cases, education, outreach and reporting related
17 to the Maine Civil Rights Act and provides funding for related All Other costs.

18 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
19 POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
20 Personal Services	\$0	\$179,451
21 All Other	\$0	\$14,143
22		
23 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$193,594

24
25 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
26 number to read consecutively.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, strikes the provisions
29 of the bill establishing the Civil Rights Review Panel. It also clarifies that the
30 confidentiality of civil rights violation complaints is governed by the Intelligence and
31 Investigative Record Information Act. The amendment also adds language to make clear
32 and consistent among the provisions of law that govern the training of civil rights officers
33 that a civil rights officer must undergo enhanced ongoing civil rights training as directed
34 by the Office of the Attorney General in order to remain qualified as a civil rights officer.

35 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

36 (See attached)



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2210

LR 2621(02)

An Act to Establish a Civil Rights Unit and a Civil Rights Review Panel Within the Office of the Attorney General and Require Ongoing Enhanced Civil Rights Training for Civil Rights Officers

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-877)

Committee: Judiciary

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$193,594	\$237,236	\$245,268
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$193,594	\$237,236	\$245,268

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill creates a civil rights unit within the Office of the Attorney General to promote and advance protections under the Maine Civil Rights Act. The bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations to the Office of the Attorney General of \$193,594 in fiscal year 2024-25 for one Assistant Attorney General position and one Paralegal position beginning September 1, 2024 to coordinate cases, education, outreach and reporting related to the Maine Civil Rights Act.