

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Rep A

L.D. 2121

(Filing No. H-913)

Date: 3/27/26

Report A

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JUDICIARY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1436, L.D. 2121, "An Act to Enhance the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials, Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor by Allowing Certain Personal Information to Be Removed from Designated Public Records"

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

'Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Study Methods for Enhancing the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Working Group. Resolved: That the Department of the Secretary of State shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," to study methods for enhancing the safety of judicial officers and elected officials in accordance with this section.

1. The working group must consist of at least the following 13 members:

- A. The Secretary of State or the Secretary of State's designee;
- B. Two members of the Legislature, including one member of the Senate designated by the President of the Senate and one member of the House of Representatives designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall confer to ensure that one of the designated Legislators is a member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and the other designated Legislator is a member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;
- C. A judge or justice of the District Court, the Superior Court or the Supreme Judicial Court designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court;
- D. A representative of the Administrative Office of the Courts designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court;
- E. A county probate court judge designated by the Secretary of State;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROHS

- 1 F. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;
- 2 G. The Chief Information Officer or the Chief Information Officer's designee;
- 3 H. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
- 4 I. A register of deeds in the State designated by the Secretary of State;
- 5 J. A representative from the Maine Municipal Association designated by the Maine
- 6 Municipal Association;
- 7 K. A representative from the Right to Know Advisory Committee who is not a member
- 8 of the Legislature designated by the Chair of the Right to Know Advisory Committee;
- 9 and
- 10 L. A representative of the media designated by the Secretary of State.

11 2. At a minimum, the working group shall examine threats of violence currently faced
 12 by judicial officers and elected officials in the State; legislation enacted in other states to
 13 enhance the safety of judicial officers and elected officials, including but not limited to
 14 legislation directing the removal of the home addresses and other personally identifying
 15 information of judicial officers and elected officials from publicly accessible government
 16 websites and databases and other public records; the logistical, financial, technological and
 17 other requirements for government entities in the State to remove home addresses and other
 18 personally identifying information of judicial officers and elected officials from publicly
 19 accessible government websites and databases and other public records; whether it is
 20 necessary to continue to include home addresses and other personally identifying
 21 information of judicial officers and elected officials in certain types of public records
 22 maintained by government entities in the State; and whether and how the State may direct
 23 data brokers and other private entities to remove home addresses and other personally
 24 identifying information of judicial officers and elected officials from publicly accessible
 25 websites and databases.

26 **Sec. 2. Pilot project. Resolved:** That, no later than January 15, 2027, the
 27 Department of the Secretary of State shall establish a 2-year pilot project that provides each
 28 qualifying official who applies to participate in the pilot project with a subscription to a
 29 service that removes the qualifying official's personally identifying information from
 30 publicly accessible websites and databases. For the purposes of this section, "qualifying
 31 official" means a judge or justice of a county probate court, the District Court, the Superior
 32 Court and the Supreme Judicial Court or a Legislator.

33 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of the Secretary of State shall submit
 34 a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary
 35 matters no later than February 1, 2027 with an interim evaluation of the costs and
 36 effectiveness of the pilot project under section 2. The interim evaluation must identify the
 37 working group members, summarize the activities of the working group and set forth the
 38 working group's findings and recommendations for enhancing the safety of judicial officers
 39 and elected officials by protecting personally identifying information of these officers and
 40 officials in government records, including any suggested legislation. The joint standing
 41 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters may report out
 42 legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions 0692

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a subscription service to remove qualifying information from publicly accessible websites.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$60,280
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$60,280

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

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill with a resolve directing the Department of the Secretary of State to convene a working group of at least 13 members to study methods for enhancing the safety of judicial officers and elected officials and to establish a 2-year pilot project that provides each judge or justice and Legislator who applies to participate in the pilot project with a subscription to a service that removes that participant's personally identifying information from publicly accessible websites and databases. The amendment directs the department to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters no later than February 1, 2027 with an interim evaluation of the costs and effectiveness of the pilot project and setting forth the working group's findings and recommendations for enhancing the safety of judicial officers and elected officials. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters may report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 2121

LR 2650(02)

An Act to Enhance the Safety of Judicial and Elected Officials, Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor by Allowing Certain Personal Information to Be Removed from Designated Public Records

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-913)

Committee: Judiciary

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Legislative Cost/Study

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$60,280	\$60,280	,
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$60,280	\$60,280	\$0

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$1,400 in fiscal year 2026-27. The Legislature's budget for the 2026-2027 biennium includes \$7,253 in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$17,696 in fiscal year 2026-27 for the costs of legislative studies, as well as \$41,338 of balances carried over from prior fiscal years for this purpose. Whether these amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature. The additional costs of providing staffing assistance to the study during the interim can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted staff resources.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation to the Department of the Secretary of State of \$60,280 in fiscal year 2026-27 for a subscription to remove qualifying information from internet websites.

Any additional costs to departments and agencies designated to participate in the working group are assumed to be minor and can be absorbed with existing budgeted resources.