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Legislative History Collection
131st Legislature (2022-2024)

History and Final Disposition

LD 653 / SP0270

Original Title: An Act to Support Constitutionally Required Public Defense by Creating the Maine Office of Public Defense Services. New Title: An Act to Establish the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services and Establish Public Defender Offices for Aroostook, Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties. Presented by Sen. KEIM of Oxford. Referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary. Public Hearing 04/04/23. OTP-AM Accepted 03/20/24. Amended by: CA (Changed Title) S-579. Carried Over: 07/26/23. Final Disposition: Emergency Enacted, Emergency Signed 03/21/24, PUBLIC LAW, Chapter 558.

Original Bill

[LD 653 \(131st Legis. 2023\)](#)

Analyst's Summary of Enacted Law

[LD 653 / PL 2023, c. 558](#)

Committee Materials

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

- (Master file available on request—please include citation: cf131-LD-0653.pdf)

[Public Hearing \(Audio File\) \(JUD\) \(04/04/2023\)](#)

[Work Session \(Audio File\) \(JUD\) \(04/18/2023\)](#)

[Work Session \(Audio File\) \(JUD\) \(03/06/2024\)](#)

- (Click audio link on committee page. Audio files may cover several bills.)

New Drafts and Amendments

[Amendment CA \(S-579\) \(LD 653 2024\) \(Passed\)](#)

Floor Proceedings and Debate

[HOUSE, February 14, 2023 \(H-113-130\)](#)

p. H-123

[SENATE, February 14, 2023 \(S-147-159\)](#)

p. S-152

[SENATE, July 25, 2023 \(S-1531-1592\)](#)

p. S-1584

[HOUSE, July 25, 2023 \(H-1153-1189\)](#)

p. H-1182

[SENATE, March 19, 2024 \(S-1999-2013\)](#)

p. S-2011 (Amendment(s) S-579)

[HOUSE, March 20, 2024 \(H-1492-1499\)](#)

p. H-1492 (Amendment(s) S-579)

[HOUSE, March 21, 2024 \(H-1499-1505\)](#)

p. H-1500 (Remarks) (Amendment(s) S-579)

[SENATE, March 21, 2024 \(S-2036-2056\)](#)

p. S-2049 (Remarks) (Amendment(s) S-579)

Enacted Law or Resolve

[PL 2023, c. 558](#)

Reports and Other Related Documents

[Annual Report of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services \(January 14, 2025\)](#)

News Articles

Mills signs law creating two new public defenders offices (Billings, Randy) (Portland Press Herald, 3/22/2024, p. B1, B4) • (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD06xx/nc131-LD-0653/PPH 240322G.pdf)

Labor crisis imperils Maine's public defense push (Emily Allen) (Portland Press Herald, 3/25/2024, p. A1, A5) • (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD06xx/nc131-LD-0653/PPH 240323A.pdf)

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