

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

December 2021

MEMBERS:

SEN. ANNE M. CARNEY, CHAIR
SEN. HEATHER B. SANBORN
SEN. LISA M. KEIM

REP. THOM HARNETT, CHAIR
REP. CHRISTOPHER W. BABBIDGE
REP. JOYCE MCCREIGHT*
REP. BARBARA A. CARDONE*
REP. LOIS GALGAY RECKITT
REP. STEPHEN W. MORIARTY
REP. ERIN R. SHEEHAN
REP. DAVID G. HAGGAN
REP. LAUREL D. LIBBY*
REP. JENNIFER L. POIRIER
REP. JAMES F. THORNE*
REP. JEFFREY EVANGELOS
REP. RENA D. NEWELL

STAFF:

MARGARET REINSCH, SR. LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
SAM SENFT, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

*Committee member for a portion of the session

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

LD 448 An Act Regarding Recording of Witness Interviews

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 381 directs the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees to adopt minimum policy standards regarding the recording and preservation of witness interviews conducted by law enforcement officers in murder investigations and Class A, Class B and Class C crime investigations. Law enforcement agencies are required to adopt policies containing at least the minimum policy standards. The policy may not require the recording of all witness interviews, but must factor in the feasibility of recording individual interviews, taking into account the circumstances of the witness, the time and place of the interview and the crime as well as the capability of the law enforcement agency to record the interview.

LD 483 An Act To Clarify Funding for Civil Legal Services

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 329 clarifies three aspects of the law pertaining to the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund and the collection of fees and surcharges by the Judicial Department.

Chapter 329 clarifies that the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund surcharge on debt collection actions is payable at the commencement of debt collection actions, whether or not they are classified as small claims cases, and that the surcharge is imposed with respect to money judgment disclosure actions.

Chapter 329 clarifies that the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund surcharge is not included as a recoverable cost under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 14, section 1502-B.

Chapter 329 clarifies that the Judicial Department may refer cases to the Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Service for mediation and collect fees as appropriate.

LD 535 An Act To Provide for the Well-being of Companion Animals upon the Dissolution of Marriages

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 285 provides that in a proceeding for legal separation or divorce, in the disposition of property a court must consider the well-being of a companion animal and all relevant factors and specifies a number of factors that the court must consider. It provides that the court is required to award ownership to only one of the parties.