

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR AND HOUSING

December 2021

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## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING

### **LD 1106 An Act To Prohibit an Employer from Charging an Employee for Direct Deposit for Wages**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 158 prohibits an employer from charging a fee for the payment of wages to an employee by means of direct deposit of funds.

### **LD 1167 An Act Relating to Fair Chance in Employment**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 404 prohibits an employer from requesting criminal history record information on an initial employee application form or stating on an initial employee application form or advertisement or specifying prior to determining a person is otherwise qualified for the position that a person with a criminal history may not apply or will not be considered for a position.

Public Law 2021, chapter 404 provides exceptions to those prohibitions, including instances in which federal or state law or regulation or rule mandates for a position that a criminal conviction disqualifies an applicant, or imposes an obligation on an employer not to hire an applicant who has been convicted of a certain type of offense.

Public Law 2021, chapter 404 provides that if an employer inquires about a prospective employee's criminal history record information during an interview or once the employee has been determined otherwise qualified, the employer must afford the prospective employee an opportunity to explain the information and the circumstances regarding any conviction, including post-conviction rehabilitation.

An employer who violates this prohibition is subject to a penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 for each violation, to be enforced by the Department of Labor.

### **LD 1201 Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Engage Stakeholders in an Examination of Fair Chance Housing Policy Options**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 75 directs the Maine State Housing Authority in collaboration with stakeholders to examine fair chance housing policies considered or adopted in other jurisdictions to evaluate options for the State to adopt that would address housing issues and expand housing opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals without placing an excessive burden on housing providers. It requires the authority to submit a report by February 15, 2022 to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing that includes findings and recommendations and includes a summary of any meetings that occur regarding the examination, a list of participants in the examination, suggestions to increase the awareness among housing providers of the challenges

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faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in finding housing and any other relevant information. It allows the authority to include suggested legislation in its report. Lastly, it allows the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.

### **LD 1269 An Act To Preserve Fair Housing in Maine**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 270 requires the Maine State Housing Authority, to the extent consistent with federal law, use its funding or any state or local funding in a manner to affirmatively further fair housing in the State. It requires the Maine State Housing Authority in its report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing to include data reported by municipal housing authorities to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development on affirmatively furthering fair housing. The report must also contain a recommendation from the Maine State Housing Authority on a method by which municipal authorities may annually submit data and reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters.

### **LD 1397 Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Assist the City of Lewiston with its Rental Registration Program**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 88 requires the Maine State Housing Authority to assist the City of Lewiston in its rental registration program as a pilot project to serve as a model for developing a similar program for all housing authorities in the State. The Maine State Housing Authority must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing by January 15, 2022. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

### **LD 1489 An Act To Update the Classification of Service Employees**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 288 gradually increases the amount of tips an employee must receive to be considered a service employee from \$30 per month to \$175 per month beginning January 1, 2023 and provides that this amount, beginning on January 1, 2024, must be increased by the same percentage of the increase, if any, in the cost of living.