

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

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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

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Chapter 313 caps the fee to cover the cost of copying a public record at no more than 10¢ per page for a standard 8 1/2 inches by 11 inches black and white copy and clarifies that a per-page copy fee may not be charged for records provided electronically.

Chapter 313 adds a member to the Right To Know Advisory Committee who has legal or professional experience in the field of data and personal privacy, to be appointed by the Governor.

Chapter 313 makes the following changes to the requirements for training under the Freedom of Access Act.

1. It clarifies that an official must complete training within 120 days of assuming the duties of the position.
2. It expands the list of municipal officials required to complete training to include code enforcement officers, town managers and administrators and planning board members and clarifies that deputies of municipal clerks, treasurers, managers or administrators, assessors and code enforcement officers must also complete the training.
3. It clarifies that school superintendents, assistant superintendents and school board members are required to complete training.

Chapter 313 includes a Mandate Preamble.

LD 1346 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Fees Charged for Responding to Public Records Requests

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 375 implements recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee by making the following changes to the laws concerning the fees that an agency or official may charge to cover the costs of responding to public records requests.

1. It extends the time period for which an agency or official may not charge a fee for searching for, retrieving and compiling a requested public record from the first hour of staff time per request to the first two hours of staff time per request.
2. It increases the fee that may be charged after the first two hours of staff time per request for searching for, retrieving and compiling a requested public record from not more than \$15 per hour to not more than \$25 per hour.
3. It specifies that an agency may retain any fee or cost charged.