

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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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

1. Review the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 1101 to determine and suggest any additional words to be included in the current definition of offensive name;
2. Establish a uniform process for renaming geographic features and other places that have offensive names; and
3. Explore the most effective methods of identifying the individuals, entities and institutions in the State that profited or benefited in any manner from the global economy of enslavement.

The resolve provides that it is the intent of the Legislature that the department and commission carry out its responsibilities within their existing resources. It allows the department and commission to solicit, accept and expend funds to cover any expenses that are in excess of existing resources. The resolve requires the department to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary by December 1, 2021. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

LD 1606 An Act To Expand Tenant Representation on Boards of Directors of Nonprofit Housing Corporations

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 317 requires a nonprofit corporation that provides dwelling units in a multi-unit residential building to include a current tenant on its board of directors. The requirement for a director who is a tenant applies to any nonprofit corporation that has an ownership interest in any multifamily rental housing. If the corporation is unable to find a tenant to serve as a director, it must advertise the position to current tenants on an annual basis. The corporation must post in a public location in each building in which the corporation has an interest the name and contact information of the tenant director. Chapter 317 does not apply to a nonprofit corporation that only provides emergency shelter or short-term transitional housing.

LD 1612 An Act To Facilitate Children's Testimony in Certain Sex Crime Cases

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 395 allows the court, upon motion by the State, to allow a child 14 years of age or younger to provide direct testimony in certain sex crime cases outside the presence of the defendant from a children's advocacy center through the use of audiovisual electronic means. It clarifies that the defendant's attorney must be provided an opportunity in real time to cross-examine the child after the child's direct testimony. It requires that the defendant be able to observe the child's testimony while it is happening and be able to communicate with the defendant's attorney during the testimony.