

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

July 2022

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## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

### **LD 1686 An Act to Establish Public Defender Positions and Provide Support for Indigent Legal Services Providers**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 720 establishes and funds five public defender positions to be dispatched in the State where needed, provides money for legal research by attorneys providing services to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services and adds funding for attendance at training events provided by the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services.

### **LD 1696 An Act To Clarify and Recodify Maine’s Protection from Abuse Statutes**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 647 clarifies and recodifies Maine’s protection from abuse statutes to make the process more accessible to the public, the legal community and the judiciary. Established case law is incorporated for judicial economy and clarity for self-represented litigants and the legal community. Chapter 647 does not make any substantive changes to existing law and is intended solely as reorganization of the existing statutes. Public Law 2021, chapter 647 takes effect January 1, 2023.

### **LD 1772 An Act To Amend the Remote Meeting Law in Maine’s Freedom of Access Act**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 666 amends the law governing remote participation in public meetings in the Freedom of Access Act to remove the requirement that a remote meeting policy adopted by a public body must include an expectation that members of the public body be physically present. It allows the public body to limit public attendance at a proceeding solely to remote methods if there is an emergency or urgent situation that requires the public body to meet only by remote methods. It also clarifies that the remote participation policy of a public body applies to a board or committee within the jurisdiction of the public body unless the subordinate board or committee adopts its own remote participation policy.

### **LD 1774 An Act Clarifying the Rights to Legal Representation and To Communicate with Others for Individuals Subject to Guardianship**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 500 clarifies within the Maine Probate Code that an adult for whom a guardian has been appointed retains the rights to engage an attorney for any reason and to communicate freely with counsel, the probate court, an ombudsman or any advocate for the adult subject to the guardianship. It also provides that the section of the Maine Probate Code prohibiting