

# 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  
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 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

communication is to offer the defendant an opportunity to participate in an established precharge diversion program, the successful completion of which results in the prosecutor not prosecuting the charge or charges against the defendant.

### **LD 1687 An Act To Improve the Provision of Indigent Legal Services**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 481 authorizes the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services to directly employ attorneys to provide legal services to indigent clients. It also requires the commission to establish an audit system and allow the recoupment of payments when appropriate and directs the executive director to carry out the audits and seek recoupment. Chapter 481 also grants the commission subpoena power, enforceable in the Superior Court, to conduct the audits and authorizes the executive director to exercise the subpoena power on behalf of the commission.

Public law 2021, chapter 481 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 15, 2021.

### **LD 1688 An Act To Improve Consistency in Terminology and within the Maine Human Rights Act**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 366 addresses inconsistencies in the protections provided in different areas of jurisdiction under the Maine Human Rights Act. Chapter 366 provides more inclusive protection by:

1. Including adult family members dependent for care in the definition of "familial status";
2. Including familial status as a protected class in employment;
3. Including age as a protected class in public accommodations; and
4. Clarifying the scope of the Maine Human Rights Act application in education.

Chapter 366 also clarifies that the sexual orientation provisions in the Maine Human Rights Act extend to gender identity, and updates statutory sections to be consistent with changes in law that were enacted in the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature concerning gender identity.