

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH 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 1854 An Act To Amend the Finance Authority of Maine Act To Allow for Remote Meetings

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 572 repeals the specific provisions in law governing certain emergency meetings of the Finance Authority of Maine, thereby making the remote meetings provisions of Title 1, section 403-B applicable to the authority.

Public Law 2021, chapter 572 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 7, 2022.

LD 1857 An Act To Prioritize the Prosecution of Child Homicide Cases

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 621 directs the Attorney General to formally request the Judicial Branch to give priority to scheduling child homicide trials.

LD 1871 Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Extend Its Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 141 extends by two years the Maine Human Rights Commission pilot program to receive, review and investigate incidents and complaints of harassment due to a person's housing status and other reports of interference with a person's access to public accommodations and extends the deadlines for its reports. The commission's interim report is due to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters September 15, 2023 and the final report must be submitted by September 15, 2024, after the conclusion of the 4th year of the pilot program. The resolve is retroactive to June 16, 2020, the effective date of Resolve 2019, chapter 113, which originally created the pilot program.

LD 1888 An Act To Amend Laws Affecting Sex Offenders and Petitions for the Determination of Parental Rights and Responsibilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public law 2021, chapter 577 provides express authority for a court to order a forensic risk assessment in a parental rights and responsibilities proceeding. The assessment must be performed by a licensed clinical social worker, psychologist or psychiatrist qualified to perform psychosexual evaluations. In determining whether to order an assessment, the court may consider the existence of court findings, including convictions for child-related sexual offenses, dissemination of sexually

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explicit material or possession of sexually explicit material, substantiated findings of child abuse or neglect involving child-related sexual offenses or sexual exploitation of a minor, a recommendation for the assessment by a guardian ad litem and any other factor the court considers relevant. The court may order that the person performing the forensic risk assessment may interview certain parents and have access to court documents, records of any interview with the child and other relevant documents. The court must order the parent who is ordered to complete the forensic risk assessment to pay all the fees associated with the assessment unless another parent agrees to pay for the assessment. If the parent has already completed a forensic risk assessment in the past year, the court may order the parent to release the assessment to the court, the guardian ad litem or another party and may require the parent to complete a new assessment only if the court determines a new assessment is necessary.

LD 1899 An Act To Ensure Safe Entry and Access for People Seeking Health Care and Other Constitutional Rights

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 640 defines the term “medical safety zone” and requires the demarcation of a medical safety zone around a building in which patients receive health services. It also prohibits a person from entering into, remaining in or creating an obstruction in that medical safety zone during the hours in which health services may be provided. The eight-foot medical safety zone is measured from the center of the entrance of the building in which patients receive health services. Chapter 640 makes violating the prohibition or intentionally interfering or attempting to interfere with the exercise of certain constitutional rights a Class E crime.

LD 1900 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Name Changes

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 559 removes the current requirement that notice be given prior to a court’s order changing the name of an adult who has petitioned for the name change. It does not remove the court’s discretion in changing an adult’s name, but it does prohibit the court from requiring public notice before approving the name change.

Chapter 559 provides that notice of the filing of a petition to change the name of a minor must be provided only to any other parent; to any guardian and any person or agency with legal custody of the minor; to the guardian ad litem, if any; and to the minor if the minor is 14 years of age or older.