

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 VETERANS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

July 2022

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LD 1985 An Act To Improve Testing Requirements for Adult Use Marijuana

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 612 does the following.

1. It allows adult use marijuana and adult use marijuana products to be transferred between licensees without requiring mandatory testing.
2. It keeps the requirement in current law that requires mandatory testing before adult use marijuana or adult use marijuana products may be sold or transferred to a consumer.
3. It requires additional testing of previously tested adult use marijuana or adult use marijuana products prior to sale or transfer to a consumer only if the marijuana or marijuana product has undergone further processing, manufacturing or alteration since the previous testing that would result in an increase in the concentration of any contaminants or factors that are required to be assessed as part of the testing.

LD 2001 An Act To Clarify State Policy and Legislative Intent Regarding the Maine Veterans' Homes, To Require Notification of Closure of the Maine Veterans' Homes to the Legislature and To Fund Public Homes in Caribou and Machias in Order To Keep Them Open

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 528 does the following.

1. It establishes the policy and intent of the Legislature in establishing the Maine Veterans' Homes, which must have locations in the municipalities of Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Machias, Scarborough and South Paris. It also requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, to convene a group of relevant stakeholders to develop a plan for the long-term viability and continuous operation of the Maine Veterans' Homes at these locations. The board is required to report that plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs in its annual report presented to the committee in February 2023.
2. It adds three civilian members, appointed by the Governor, to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes.
3. It requires the Maine Veterans' Homes to seek funds from private and public sources, including, but not limited to, state and federal appropriations and grants for which the State or the homes may be eligible.

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4. It requires the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes to seek comments from the public when adopting rules.
5. It requires the Maine Veterans' Homes to submit in its annual report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs a description of any efforts to seek funding and any amendments to the rules necessary to administer the homes and authorizes the committee to report out legislation based upon the report.
6. It establishes requirements that the Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes must follow when discontinuing services at or closing a public home for veterans.
7. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to make supplemental payments to the Maine Veterans' Homes in fiscal years 2021-22 and 2022-23 to offset budget shortfalls. As a condition of receiving the supplemental payments, the Maine Veterans' Homes must commit to continue providing services in Caribou and Machias.

Public Law 2021, chapter 528 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 31, 2022.

LD 2029 An Act To Enhance the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment in the Maine National Guard

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 634 enhances the prevention of and response to sexual assault and sexual harassment within the Maine National Guard. Part A directs the Attorney General to review the manner in which law enforcement agencies and prosecutors within the State investigated and prosecuted allegations of sexual assault or the crime of harassment by members of the Maine National Guard against other members of the Maine National Guard during the five-year period ending on March 31, 2022. The Attorney General shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs summarizing the results of the review by February 15, 2023. The committee may report out legislation regarding the subject matter of the report to the 131st Legislature in 2023.

Part B of Public Law 2021, chapter 634:

1. Expands the crime of harassment to provide that a person commits harassment if the person engages in any course of conduct with the intent to harass, torment or threaten another person and during the previous year the person, while a member of the Maine National Guard, was notified in writing or otherwise not to engage in such conduct by a commanding officer, regardless of whether the person remains a member of the Maine National Guard when the conduct occurs and regardless of where the conduct occurs;
2. Provides that a notice to cease harassment issued to a member of the Maine National Guard by a commanding officer may, to the same extent as a notice to cease harassment issued by a law