

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY**

May 2026

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY**

LD 259 An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute

Public Law 2025, chapter 526 establishes the Criminal Records Review Commission. The commission members include Legislators, Executive Department commissioners or their designees and leaders and representatives from various organizations. The commission's duties include reviewing laws, rules and procedures pertaining to criminal history record information in this State. The commission may submit legislation to the Legislature at the start of each regular session and may also make recommendations to the Department of Public Safety, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, the judicial branch's advisory committee on the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure and any other organization or committee whose affairs pertain to the use, maintenance or dissemination of criminal history record information. The commission may consult with outside experts in fields related to its duties and may seek funding to partially or fully fund its costs. Members who are Legislators are entitled to receive a legislative per diem and reimbursement of expenses.

Public Law 2025, chapter 526 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 526 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 338 An Act to Increase the Size and Balance of Jury Pools

Public Law 2025, chapter 708 adds registered voters and recipients of state unemployment compensation to the source list of prospective jurors in each county, effective January 1, 2028.

The legislation that became Public Law 2025, chapter 708 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. The legislation was recalled from the Governor during the Second Regular Session and further amended before being enacted as Public Law 2025, chapter 708.

LD 395 Resolve, Establishing the Working Group to Develop Recommendations for Extending Federal Beneficial Laws to the Wabanaki Nations

Resolve 2025, chapter 165 establishes the Working Group to Develop Recommendations for Extending Federal Beneficial Laws to the Wabanaki Nations. The working group is charged with developing consensus recommendations for extending to the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation, notwithstanding Sections 6(h) and 16(b) of the federal Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, the benefits of federal laws enacted before, on or after October 1980 that are generally applicable to, enacted for the benefit of or that relate to a special status of rights or lands owned by or held in trust for Indians or Indian tribes. The working group shall submit a report by December 2, 2026, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters that includes the working group's findings and consensus recommendations, including any suggested legislation.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

LD 411 Resolve, Directing the Attorney General to Update Rules Relating to the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

Resolve 2025, chapter 123 directs the Attorney General to update the rules relating to the disposition of forfeited firearms to clarify that all proceeds from the auction of forfeited firearms go to the Safe Homes Program except that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services may retain 12% of the total proceeds and the Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police, sheriff's departments and municipal police departments may retain the proceeds resulting from the auction of firearms forfeited to their respective departments.

Resolve 2025, chapter 123 was finally passed in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Resolve 2025, chapter 123 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 517 An Act Regarding Synthetic Media in Campaign Advertising

Public Law 2025, chapter 593 requires that certain political public communications containing synthetic media be accompanied by a disclosure revealing that the communication contains audio, video or images that have been manipulated or altered. Under the law, "synthetic media" is defined as an image, an audio recording or a video recording depicting a candidate's appearance, speech or conduct that either depicts the candidate saying or doing something the candidate did not do or say in a manner that is likely to deceive a reasonable person or that has been manipulated or altered in a manner likely to provide a reasonable person with a materially different understanding or impression of the candidate's appearance, action or speech than a reasonable person would have from an unaltered, original version of the communication. Public communications that are satire or parody or that contain only minor modifications are not subject to the disclosure requirement. In addition, broadcasters and newspapers may not be found in violation of the disclosure requirement unless they broadcast or publish a paid public communication with actual knowledge that it contains synthetic media.

Violations of the disclosure requirement are subject to investigation by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, which may impose a civil penalty of up to 500% of the amount of the expenditure made for the public communication. The Attorney General may also bring a civil action for injunctive or other appropriate equitable relief requiring compliance with the disclosure requirement.