

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**

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.