

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
132<sup>ND</sup> 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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**LD 1126 An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms**

Public Law 2025, chapter 537 provides that it is unlawful for a person to intentionally or knowingly possess one or more unfinished frames or receivers unless each unfinished frame or receiver has been imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee. Under the law, a first offense of unlawful possession is a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$50 may be adjudged. For a 2nd offense of unlawful possession, a violation is a Class D crime and for a 3rd or subsequent offense, a violation is a Class C crime. Under the law, a first offense of unlawful importation, transfer, offer to transfer or purchase is a Class D crime. For a 2nd or subsequent offense of unlawful importation, transfer, offer to transfer or purchase, a violation is a Class C crime. A person who uses a firearm without a serial number while committing a Class A or Class B crime or while committing reckless conduct under Title 17-A, section 211 commits a Class C crime.

Public Law 2025, chapter 537 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 537 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

**LD 1444 An Act to Clarify the Application of *Finch v. U.S. Bank, N.A.***

Public Law 2025, chapter 677 clarifies that for any cause of action arising prior to January 11, 2024 for a claim in which a foreclosure action was dismissed due to a defective notice of a mortgagor's right to cure, any subsequent cause of action asserting a claim for any sums due on the obligation as of the date of the final judgment dismissing the prior action is barred. The law indicates that the holding in the case of *Finch v. U.S. Bank, N.A.*, 2024 Me. 2, may not be applied to any cause of action arising prior to January 11, 2024.

**LD 1544 An Act to Support Families by Improving the Court Process for Child Protection Cases**

Public Law 2025, chapter 774 makes the following changes to the laws governing child protection proceedings.

1. It repeals the provision of law treating a parent's prior involuntary termination of parental rights to a sibling as an "aggravating factor" that may form the basis of a court order that the Department of Health and Human Services need not commence or may cease its efforts to reunify the parent with the child who is the subject of a child protection proceeding.
2. It requires the department to include in a request for an ex parte preliminary protection order a detailed summary of how the department weighed the trauma to the child of removal from the child's home against the alleged immediate risk of serious harm to the child.

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3. It requires the court to consider the trauma to the child of removal from the child’s home and whether the department has exhausted options to mitigate the immediate risk of serious harm to the child and avoid removing the child from the child’s home when deciding both whether to grant an ex parte request for a preliminary protection order and whether to continue the removal after a summary preliminary hearing.

**LD 1667 Resolve, to Allow Hemphill Farms, Inc. to Sue the State**

Resolve 2025, chapter 129 authorizes Hemphill Farms, Inc., in Presque Isle, which claims to have suffered damages in connection with actions taken by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, to sue the department for damages resulting from those actions.

Resolve 2025, chapter 129 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 129 became law without the Governor’s signature on January 11, 2026.

**LD 1796 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to Clarify the Types of Cases for Which the Commission Is Responsible for Providing Counsel**

Public Law 2025, chapter 511 makes the following changes to the laws governing court-appointed counsel.

1. It amends the definition of “indigent legal services” to include services that an attorney performs at the direction of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services that aid the commission in its duty to provide indigent legal services.
2. It provides that the commission is not responsible for compensating counsel appointed by a District Court or a county probate court to represent a party in a proceeding under the Maine Uniform Probate Code. It further clarifies that if a court appoints an attorney to represent a party who has a right to counsel at public expense under the Maine Uniform Probate Code, the court is responsible for paying reasonable compensation to and reimbursing the reasonable expenses of the attorney. The court is also responsible for paying reasonable compensation to and reimbursing the reasonable expenses of an attorney appointed at the court’s discretion to represent a minor or an indigent party in a proceeding under the Maine Uniform Probate Code.
3. It provides that the commission is not responsible for compensating a guardian ad litem appointed by a District Court or a county probate court in a termination of parental rights proceeding or in any proceeding under the Maine Uniform Probate Code.
4. It provides that if a termination of parental rights proceeding is brought under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, the court is responsible for compensating any counsel the court may, in its discretion, appoint to represent the petitioner in the termination proceeding. By