

# 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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## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

contrast, the commission is responsible for compensating counsel appointed to represent the parent whose rights may be terminated.

5. It clarifies that the commission, not the court, is responsible for compensating an attorney appointed to represent a person subject to an involuntary commitment proceeding.
6. It prohibits a court from directly assigning public defenders or employed counsel, who are employees of the commission, to represent parties in particular proceedings.

Public Law 2025, chapter 511 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 511 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

### **LD 1871 An Act to Permit Sealing Criminal History Record Information of Victims of Sex Trafficking or Sexual Exploitation**

Public Law 2025, chapter 513 amends provisions of the law governing post-judgment motions to seal criminal history record information by allowing a person to file a motion to seal criminal history record information for a criminal conviction for any current or former crime if the person shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the person has been a victim of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation and the commission of the crime for which the person was convicted was a substantial result of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation.

The law also provides that a person who is regularly engaged in the business of collecting, assembling, evaluating or disseminating criminal history record information related to specific individuals for a fee, also called a business screening service, is required to disseminate only complete and accurate records; investigate disputed records; correct or delete records found to be inaccurate or reflecting a criminal conviction that was sealed or pardoned; and provide a notice with disseminated records including the date the record was collected and a notice that information may include criminal records that have been sealed or otherwise have become inaccessible to the public. A person is considered in violation of these provisions only if the person's conduct violates these provisions and also violates relevant provisions of the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. A person found in violation of both the state and federal law is liable to the subject of the record for a penalty of \$1,000 and additional remedies.

Public Law 2025, chapter 513 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 513 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.