

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

STAFF:

JANET STOCCO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
ELIAS MURPHY, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

MEMBERS:

SEN. ANNE M. CARNEY, CHAIR
SEN. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS
SEN. DAVID G. HAGGAN

REP. AMY D. KUHN, CHAIR
REP. ADAM R. LEE
REP. DAVID A. SINCLAIR
REP. ELEANOR Y. SATO
REP. DYLAN R. PUGH
REP. DANI L. O'HALLORAN
REP. JENNIFER L. POIRIER
REP. RACHEL A. HENDERSON
REP. ELIZABETH M. CARUSO
REP. MARK MICHAEL BABIN
REP. AARON M. DANA

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY**

Victims' Compensation Fund if that person was a victim of aggravated sex trafficking, sex trafficking, sexual exploitation of a minor, commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or commercial sexual exploitation of a person with a mental disability and the crime committed by that person was the direct result of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. The law increases the mandatory fee for a conviction of soliciting a child for commercial sexual exploitation and for a conviction of commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or person with a mental disability.

LD 2170 An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine

Public Law 2025, chapter 655 corrects technical inconsistencies, conflicts and errors in the laws of Maine, including by making grammatical changes, correcting cross-references and removing obsolete terminology.

Public Law 2025, chapter 655 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 13, 2026.

LD 2176 An Act to Safeguard Personal Information and Strengthen Tenant Rights in Maine

Public Law 2025, chapter 767 adds the disclosure of private information to the definition of “harassment” in the protection from harassment statute. The law increases from \$100 to \$250 the penalty when a landlord enters the dwelling of a tenant without reasonable notice. The law also makes it illegal for a landlord to disclose to any person the personal information of a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant of a rental property owned or managed by the landlord without the express consent of the tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant, except in certain cases. The law establishes a \$1,000 penalty for a landlord who discloses personal information in violation of this provision.

LD 2193 An Act to Extend the Requirement That the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Compensate Certain Private Attorneys Appointed to Provide Indigent Legal Services

Public Law 2025, chapter 607 extends the provision of Public Law 2025, chapter 40 that required the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to compensate a private attorney appointed by a court to represent a person who is eligible to receive indigent legal services if the court finds that no public defender, assigned counsel, contract counsel or employed counsel is available to represent the person; the private attorney is willing to undertake the representation; the private attorney has not been disqualified by the commission; and, if the private attorney is appointed by the trial court, the attorney has least three years of relevant legal experience or, if the private attorney is appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court, the private attorney has either three years of relevant legal experience or previously served as a law clerk analyzing relevant cases. This requirement from Public Law 2025, chapter 40, which expired on February 1, 2026, is extended by Public Law 2025, chapter 607 through April 1, 2027.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY**

Unlike that prior law, Public Law 2025, chapter 607 clarifies that the commission is not required to reimburse or compensate a court-appointed private attorney for a task that the commission would not reimburse or compensate if the expense was incurred by or the task was performed by assigned counsel. It also clarifies that the commission is not required to compensate more than one private attorney appointed to represent a single indigent legal services client in a single court proceeding.

Public Law 2025, chapter 607 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 3, 2026.

LD 2195 An Act to Prohibit the Appointment or Assignment of an Attorney to Provide Indigent Legal Services Without That Attorney’s Consent

Public Law 2025, chapter 639 provides that the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services is not required to reimburse the expenses of or to compensate an attorney appointed or assigned by a court to provide indigent legal services unless the attorney is an “assigned counsel” as that term is defined in the statutes governing the commission; the commission has determined that the attorney is eligible for appointment or assignment in the type of court proceeding to which the attorney has been appointed or assigned; and the attorney consents in advance to the appointment or assignment.

LD 2205 An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Geographic Boundaries Between Certain Judicial Divisions in Aroostook County

Public Law 2025, chapter 552 codifies in statute the geographic boundaries between the Western Aroostook division, served by the Fort Kent District Court, and the Eastern Aroostook division, served by the Caribou District Court, that were established by the Chief Judge for the convenience of the public and that took effect upon closure of the Madawaska District Court on November 1, 2025 as authorized by Public Law 2025, chapter 436.

LD 2207 An Act Regarding the Statute of Limitations for Certain Sexual Offenses Committed Against Minors

Public Law 2025, chapter 617 eliminates the statute of limitations for prosecution of the crime of aggravated sex trafficking and the crime of sexual exploitation of a minor if those crimes were committed against a victim who had not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the crime. These changes apply only to criminal conduct occurring on or after September 1, 2026, or for which the prosecution is not barred by the statute of limitations in force immediately prior to September 1, 2026.