

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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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.