

MEMO

To: Members Criminal Records Review Committee
From: Jane Orbeton, OPLA
Date: November 10, 2021
Re: Legislation carried over to the Second Regular Session and legislative requests approved for introduction to the Second Regular Session that is or may be related to use and confidentiality of criminal history record information

Bills carried over to the Second Regular Session

Pg 3 - LD 463, An Act to Better House Maine Residents, sponsored by Rep Sylvester
This bill is a concept draft regarding helping people to obtain housing.

Pg 5 - LD 468, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Labor and Housing, sponsored by Rep Sylvester
This bill is a concept draft regarding labor and housing.

Pg 7 - LD 473, An Act to Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program, sponsored by Rep Morales
This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table as amended by Committee Amendment A and Senate Amendment A. Committee Amendment A requires a landlord participating in the proposed Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program to agree not to consider the tenant's criminal record, credit score or rental history.

Pg 19 - LD 1310, An Act Regarding Criminal Records, sponsored by Rep Talbot Ross
This bill is a concept draft regarding criminal records.

Legislative Requests approved for introduction in the Second Regular Session

Pg 21 - LR 2498, Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission to Extend Its Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues, sponsored by Rep Talbot Ross

Pg 25 - LR 2503, An Act to Increase Opportunities in the Cannabis Industry by Removing Restrictions Related to Certain Convictions for Drug Offenses, sponsored by Rep Talbot Ross

Pg 27 - LR 2508, Resolve, To Continue the Work of the Criminal Records Review Committee, sponsored by Rep Talbot Ross

Pg 29 - Potential legislation from Resolve 2021, chapter 75. Resolve 2021, chapter 75 directs the Maine State Housing Authority to examine in collaboration with stakeholders fair chance housing policies considered or adopted in other jurisdictions, addressing housing issues for formerly incarcerated persons and expanding housing opportunities without creating an excessive burden on housing providers. Chapter 75 directs the Maine State Housing Authority to report to the Labor Committee and authorizes that committee to report out legislation.



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 463

H.P. 339

House of Representatives, February 16, 2021

An Act To Better House Maine Residents

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to change certain laws to help the people of this State obtain housing.



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 468

H.P. 344

House of Representatives, February 16, 2021

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Labor and Housing

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to amend the laws governing labor and housing.



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 473

H.P. 347

House of Representatives, February 16, 2021

An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 11, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Labor and Housing pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MORALES of South Portland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 14** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 14**

4 **MAINE RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND VOUCHER GUARANTEE PROGRAM**

5 **§4994-A. Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program**

6 The Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program, referred to in this
7 section as "the program," is established within the Maine State Housing Authority. The
8 program must include a rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of
9 rent and a rental voucher guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the
10 program and other rental assistance programs in the State.

11 **1. Rental assistance.** The rental assistance component of the program must be
12 administered in accordance with this subsection.

13 A. The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish and administer eligibility criteria
14 and application requirements for tenants or prospective tenants to participate in the
15 program.

16 B. Rental assistance payments for program participants must be paid from the fund
17 established in section 4994-B directly to the landlord of the participant or to a property
18 management company designated by the landlord.

19 C. A landlord may receive rental assistance payments under the program only if the
20 landlord agrees to:

21 (1) Exclude credit score, rental history and last month's rent from the rental
22 application;

23 (2) Work with individuals referred to as "housing navigators" affiliated with
24 housing authorities, general assistance programs or nonprofit organizations who
25 assist tenants with locating housing and the rental process and who provide
26 mentoring services to promote successful landlord-tenant relationships;

27 (3) Waive tenant late fees for any month in which rental assistance is paid by the
28 program; and

29 (4) Not evict a program participant for nonpayment of rent during any month for
30 which rental assistance is paid.

31 **2. Rental voucher guarantee.** The rental voucher guarantee component of the
32 program must be administered in accordance with this subsection.

33 A. The purpose of the rental voucher guarantee program component is to encourage
34 landlords to work with the program and other rental assistance programs available in
35 the State, including but not limited to rental assistance programs administered by or
36 available through the Maine State Housing Authority, local housing authorities, other
37 state and local agencies, federal agencies, municipalities or tribal governments.

1 B. The Maine State Housing Authority shall annually dedicate \$1,000,000 of the fund
2 established in section 4994-B for the rental voucher guarantee component of the
3 program. These funds may be used as follows:

4 (1) To hire individuals referred to as "housing navigators" affiliated with local
5 housing authorities, general assistance programs or nonprofit organizations to
6 assist tenants with locating housing, to assist with the rental process and to provide
7 mentoring services to promote successful landlord-tenant relationships;

8 (2) To provide a letter of credit to landlords who enter into a 12-month rental
9 agreement with a person receiving rental assistance through a municipal general
10 assistance program under Title 22, chapter 1161. The letter of credit must guarantee
11 up to one month of rental assistance and verified property damages, not to exceed
12 \$2,000, in the event the tenancy is unsuccessful;

13 (3) To expand the availability of programs that assist landlords who participate in
14 rental assistance programs available in the State, as described in paragraph A, with
15 mitigation and repair of damages to units, mitigation of lost funds due to unpaid
16 rent and tenant payment of security deposits; and

17 (4) To connect landlords with resources for the abatement of lead paint hazards in
18 residential housing.

19 **3. Rules.** The Maine State Housing Authority may adopt rules to implement this
20 section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in
21 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

22 **§4994-B. Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program Fund**

23 The Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program Fund, referred to in this
24 section as "the fund," is established within the Maine State Housing Authority. The Maine
25 State Housing Authority may apply money in the fund for purposes authorized by this
26 subchapter.

27 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
28 allocations are made.

29 **HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

30 **Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program Fund**

31 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to establish and implement the Maine Rental Assistance
32 and Voucher Guarantee Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter
33 201, subchapter 14.

34 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
35 All Other	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000
36		
37 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$8,500,000</u>	<u>\$8,500,000</u>

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This bill requires the Maine State Housing Authority to establish and administer the
40 Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program. The program must include a
41 rental assistance component to assist individuals with the cost of rent and a rental voucher

1 guarantee component to encourage landlords to work with the program and other rental
2 assistance programs in the State. The bill also creates the Maine Rental Assistance and
3 Voucher Guarantee Program Fund under the Maine State Housing Authority to carry out
4 the program. The bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$8,500,000 to the fund in
5 fiscal year 2021-22 and fiscal year 2022-23.

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Date: (Filing No. H-)

LABOR AND HOUSING

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 347, L.D. 473, “An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 14 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 14

MAINE RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND GUARANTEE PROGRAM

§4994-A. Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program

The Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the Maine State Housing Authority. The program includes a component that provides rental assistance to assist tenants with the cost of rent and a housing navigation and guarantee component as described in this section.

1. Rental assistance. The rental assistance component of the program must be administered in accordance with this subsection.

A. The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish and administer eligibility criteria and requirements for tenants or prospective tenants to participate in the program.

B. The Maine State Housing Authority may use any funds made available for the program. No more than 10% of the funds may be used to administer the program.

2. Housing navigation and guarantee. The housing navigation and guarantee component of the program must be administered in accordance with this subsection.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 A. The purpose of the housing navigation and guarantee component of the program is
2 to assist tenants with locating housing, obtaining rental assistance and applying for
3 rental housing; to provide supportive services to promote successful landlord-tenant
4 relationships; and to encourage landlords to work with rental assistance programs
5 available in the State, including but not limited to rental assistance programs
6 administered by or available through the Maine State Housing Authority, the
7 Department of Health and Human Services, local housing authorities, other state and
8 local agencies, federal agencies, municipalities and tribal governments.

9 B. The Maine State Housing Authority shall annually provide at least \$1,500,000 of
10 available funds provided pursuant to section 4994-B for the housing navigation and
11 guarantee component of the program. The funds may be used:

12 (1) To hire housing navigators affiliated with local housing authorities, general
13 assistance programs or nonprofit organizations to assist tenants with locating
14 housing and with the rental application process and to provide supportive services
15 to promote successful landlord-tenant relationships;

16 (2) To set aside funds to guarantee certain payments to landlords who enter into a
17 12-month rental agreement with a person receiving rental assistance. The guarantee
18 may pay for verified losses including unpaid rent and property damages, not to
19 exceed \$5,000, in the event the tenancy is unsuccessful;

20 (3) To assist tenants who participate in the program with the payment of security
21 deposits;

22 (4) To provide grants up to \$5,000 for necessary repairs to pass rental assistance
23 program inspection requirements; and

24 (5) To refer landlords to resources for the abatement of lead paint hazards in
25 residential housing if needed.

26 C. A landlord may participate in the housing navigation and guarantee component of
27 the program only if the landlord agrees to:

28 (1) Enter into a 12-month lease agreement with a tenant who pays rent in whole
29 or in part through a rental assistance program;

30 (2) Not consider the tenant's criminal record, credit score or rental history, to waive
31 application fees and to not require the last month's rent in advance; and

32 (3) Waive tenant late fees for any month in which rental assistance is paid by the
33 program.

34 3. Rules. The Maine State Housing Authority may adopt rules to implement this
35 section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in
36 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

37 4. Reporting. The Maine State Housing Authority shall, on a biennial basis in January
38 beginning in 2023, report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
39 jurisdiction over housing matters detailing by county the number of households that
40 received assistance from housing navigators, the number of security deposits paid and the
41 number of landlords who have accessed funds under the program.

1 The report must also include a request for funds, if necessary, to provide rental assistance
2 to a minimum of 1,000 households that are ineligible for or are on the waiting list for other
3 rental assistance programs; the number of households on the State's centralized waiting list
4 with regard to housing under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Section 8 at the time
5 the report is submitted; and the level of funding necessary to sustain the prospective rental
6 assistance provided through the emergency rental assistance program administered by the
7 Maine State Housing Authority for the preceding year.

8 The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters
9 may submit a bill based upon the report to the Legislature in the session in which the report
10 is received.

11 **§4994-B. Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund**

12 The Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund, referred to in this section
13 as "the fund," is established within the Maine State Housing Authority. The Maine State
14 Housing Authority may apply money in the fund for purposes authorized by this
15 subchapter. The fund may not lapse, but must be carried forward to carry out the purposes
16 of this subchapter.

17 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
18 allocations are made.

19 **HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

20 **Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund N356**

21 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to establish and implement the Maine Rental Assistance
22 and Guarantee Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 201,
23 subchapter 14.

24 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
25 All Other	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000
26		
27 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$9,000,000</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>

28

29 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
30 number to read consecutively.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This amendment is the majority report of the committee and replaces the bill. The
33 amendment establishes the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program within the
34 Maine State Housing Authority. The program provides rental assistance to qualified tenants
35 and provides housing navigation services and includes a guarantee program to encourage
36 landlords to work with rental assistance programs. The amendment also creates the Maine
37 Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund to carry out the program. The amendment
38 includes an ongoing nonlapsing General Fund appropriation of \$9,000,000 per year.

39 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

40 (See attached)

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Date: (Filing No. S-)

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

SENATE AMENDMENT “ ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to H.P. 347, L.D. 473, “An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program”

Amend the amendment in section 1 in sub-c. 14 in §4994-B in the first indented paragraph in the 2nd line (page 3, line 13 in amendment) by inserting after the following: "Authority." the following: 'The fund may receive money from any source, including funds provided to the State by the Federal Government pursuant to the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, in accordance with federal law and regulations, or from any other available state, federal or private sources.'

Amend the amendment by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund N356

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures from the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 201, subchapter 14 from revenue received through federal sources.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500

Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund N356

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures from the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 201, subchapter 14 from revenue received through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$500	\$500

1 **Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund N356**
 2 Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures from the Maine Rental
 3 Assistance and Guarantee Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter
 4 201, subchapter 14 from revenue received through private sources.

5	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
6	All Other	\$500	\$500
7			
8	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>

9 **Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program Fund N356**
 10 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to establish and implement the Maine Rental Assistance
 11 and Guarantee Program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 201,
 12 subchapter 14.

13	GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
14	All Other	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000
15			
16	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$9,000,000</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>

18	HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE		
19	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2021-22	2022-23
20			
21	GENERAL FUND	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000
22	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$500	\$500
23	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
24	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP	\$500	\$500
25			
26	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$9,001,500</u>	<u>\$9,001,500</u>

27
 28 Amend the amendment by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
 29 section number to read consecutively.

30 **SUMMARY**

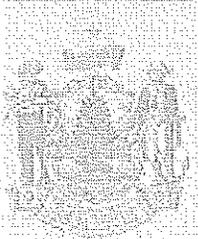
31 This amendment provides that the Maine Rental Assistance and Guarantee Program
 32 Fund may receive money from available state, federal or private sources, including funds
 33 provided to the State by the Federal Government pursuant to the federal American Rescue
 34 Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2.

35 The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

36 **SPONSORED BY:** _____

37 (Senator HICKMAN, C.)

38 **COUNTY:** Kennebec



State of Maine Legislature

Actions for LD 473

Bill Info

LD 473 (HP 347)

"An Act To Create the Maine Rental Assistance and Voucher Guarantee Program"

Sponsored by **Representative Victoria Morales**

New Search

Summary

Actions

Bill Text and
Other Docs
Committee
Info

Title &
Section

Amendments

Sponsors

Roll-calls

Subjects

Date Chamber Action

Date	Chamber	Action
2/11/2021	House	Received by the Clerk of the House on February 11, 2021. The Bill was REFERRED to the Committee on LABOR AND HOUSING pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.
3/30/2021	House	Carried over, in the same posture, to a subsequent special or regular session of the 130th Legislature, pursuant to Joint Order SP 435.
6/9/2021	House	Reports READ . On motion of Representative SYLVESTER of Portland,]the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED . ROLL CALL NO. 200 (Yeas 82 - Nays 61 - Absent 8 - Excused 0) The Bill was READ ONCE . Committee Amendment "A" (H-488) was READ and ADOPTED . Under suspension of the rules, the Bill was given its SECOND READING without REFERENCE to the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading . The Bill was PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-488) . Sent for concurrence. ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.
6/10/2021	Senate	Reports Read On motion by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report ACCEPTED . Roll Call Ordered <u>Roll Call Number 298</u> Yeas 22 - Nays 12 - Excused 1 - Absent 0 READ ONCE Committee Amendment "A" (H-488) READ and ADOPTED Under suspension of the Rules, READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED by Committee Amendment "A" (H-488) in concurrence
6/10/2021	House	PASSED TO BE ENACTED.

- 6/14/2021 Senate Sent for concurrence. ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.
On motion by Senator BREEN of Cumberland Tabled until Later in Today's Session, pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**, in concurrence.
Unfinished Business
- 6/15/2021 Senate Unfinished Business
- 6/16/2021 Senate Taken from the table by the President
On motion by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec Under suspension of the Rules The Senate **RECONSIDERED PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED**
On motion by Same Senator Under further suspension of the Rules The Senate **RECONSIDERED ADOPTION** of Committee Amendment "A" (H-488)
On motion by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec Senate Amendment "A" (S-286) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-488)
Committee Amendment "A" (H-488) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-286) thereto **ADOPTED**
- PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY** Committee Amendment "A" (H-488) **AS AMENDED BY** Senate Amendment "A" (S-286) thereto In **NON-CONCURRENCE**
Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence
- 6/17/2021 House The House **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED** to **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-488) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-286)** thereto.
ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.
- 6/17/2021 House **PASSED TO BE ENACTED.**
Sent for concurrence. ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.
- 6/18/2021 Senate On motion by Senator BREEN of Cumberland **PLACED ON THE SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**, in concurrence.
- 7/19/2021 Senate **CARRIED OVER**, in the same posture, to any special or regular session of the 130th Legislature, pursuant to Joint Order HP 1302

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1310

H.P. 966

House of Representatives, March 30, 2021

An Act Regarding Criminal Records

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

130th Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening

Sorted By Subject

JUDICIARY

FREEDOM OF ACCESS

PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS

Comment: This bill would amend the law on remote participation in public meetings in Maine's Freedom of Access Act to remove the requirement that a remote meeting policy adopted by a public body must include an expectation that members of the body be physically present. It also would permit a public body to limit public attendance solely to remote methods in certain circumstances. It also changes the public bodies to which the remote meeting provisions apply.

HUMAN RIGHTS

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

LR: 2440 Sponsor: Senator Hickman, C of Kennebec

Title: An Act To Strengthen the Maine Civil Rights Act

Comment: This bill would establish the Maine Juneteenth Act in order to establish a state cause of action for enforcing rights of the citizens of Maine, regardless of race or color, with a preponderance of evidence standard in response to the United States Supreme Court decision Comcast Corp. v. National Association of African American-Owned Media (2020).

HUMAN RIGHTS

DISCRIMINATION

LR: 2402 Sponsor: Senator Carney, A of Cumberland

Title: An Act To Maintain Consistency among Maine's Nondiscrimination Statutes

Comment: Maine's statutes include numerous nondiscrimination provisions outside of the Maine Human Rights Act. The language in these provisions predates or has not been amended to maintain consistency with the language and protected classes established by the Maine Human Rights Act. This bill would update Maine's nondiscrimination statutes to make them consistent with the Maine Human Rights Act.

LR: 2488 Sponsor: Representative Greenwood, R of Wales

Title: An Act To Protect Maine Citizens from Discrimination by Including Vaccination Status as a Protected Class

Comment: This bill would make protected class status under the freedom from discrimination laws include vaccination status.

LR: 2498 Sponsor: Representative Talbot Ross, R of Portland

Title: Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Extend Its Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues

Comment: This resolve would extend the 2-year pilot program to receive, review and investigate incidents and complaints of harassment due to a person's housing status and other reports of interference with a person's access to public accommodations.

HUMAN RIGHTS HOUSING

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY

H.P. 937 - L.D. 1294

Resolve, Directing the Maine Human Rights Commission To Implement a Pilot Program To Investigate and Report on Incidents of Harassment Due to Housing Status, Lack of Employment and Other Issues

Sec. 1. Maine Human Rights Commission pilot program to investigate and report on incidents and complaints of harassment due to housing status, lack of employment and other issues. Resolved: That the Maine Human Rights Commission shall, within budgeted resources, implement a 2-year pilot program to receive, review and investigate incidents and complaints of harassment due to a person's lack of employment or housing status and other reports of interference with a person's access to public accommodations.

In carrying out the pilot program, the commission shall investigate and respond to incidents and complaints of harassment as set out in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, sections 4611 and 4612. The commission may use any of its powers under Title 5, section 4566 to carry out the pilot program. The commission may limit the scope of the pilot program in the interest of efficiency.

The commission shall produce an interim report for submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary by September 15, 2021. The commission shall produce a final report for submission to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by September 15, 2022. Either report may contain recommendations on changes to the pilot program or for its continuation as well as suggested legislation to carry out any of the recommendations.

130th Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening

Sorted By Subject

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

MARIJUANA

COMMERCIAL

LR: 2447 Sponsor: Representative Supica, L of Bangor
Title: An Act To Remove a Significant Administrative Burden from Maine Marijuana Businesses That Use the State's Marijuana Tracking System
Comment: This bill would remove a significant administrative burden from the State's marijuana businesses that use the State's marijuana tracking system without affecting the State's ability to monitor and track marijuana and marijuana products. It would allow cultivated marijuana to be tracked by canopy, or a certain area of marijuana plants, and allow multiple marijuana products or items to be included in a single package and tracked by one tracking system tag.

MARIJUANA

FACILITIES

LR: 2220 Sponsor: Senator Black, R of Franklin
Title: An Act To Allow Plantations To Vote on Adult Use Marijuana Facilities and Stores and Medical Marijuana Facilities and Stores
Comment: This bill would allow plantations to vote to opt out on adult use marijuana facilities and stores and medical marijuana facilities and stores.

LR: 2503 Sponsor: Representative Talbot Ross, R of Portland
Title: An Act To Increase Opportunities in the Cannabis Industry by Removing Restrictions Related to Certain Convictions for Drug Offenses
Comment: This bill would specify that disqualifying drug offenses for licensure to work in the adult use and medical marijuana industries do not include an offense for which the sentence, including any term of probation, incarceration or supervised release, was completed 10 or more years earlier or an offense that consisted of conduct that would have been permitted under current law.

MARIJUANA

MEDICAL

LR: 2277 Sponsor: Senator Claxton, N of Androscoggin
Title: An Act To Enhance Access to, Education Regarding and Patient and Community Safety in Maine's Medical Use of Marijuana Program
Comment: This bill would require that a batch number be added to labels for products in the State's medical use of marijuana program. It would address patient access inconsistencies, clarify the certification of minor patients, bringing statute in line with current process and procedure, and require a medical provider who certifies a minor patient to provide the parent or guardian with the means to contact the provider. It would clarify the definition of "medical provider" and ensure access to telemedicine procedures for all patients. It would require the release of monthly sales data from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services and allow citizen access to this data.

LR: 2424 Sponsor: Representative Williams, L of Bar Harbor

130th Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening

Sorted By Subject

JUDICIARY

ACTIONS

INITIATING LAWSUITS

LR: 2129 Sponsor: Senator Stewart, T of Aroostook
Title: An Act Regarding Persons Whose Parental Rights Have Been Terminated
Comment: This bill would eliminate the ability of parents who have lost parental rights to sue the persons who were caring for the child at the time the parents' rights were terminated.

COURTS

FAMILY DIVISION

LR: 2285 Sponsor: Senator Baldacci, J of Penobscot
Title: An Act To Improve the Child and Family Court Process
Comment: This bill would increase the number of family law magistrates from 8 to 24 over a 2-year period and increase related staffing, authorize family law magistrates to decide all interim family issues regardless of whether both parents consent and authorize family law magistrates to conduct and declare all pretrial and interim matters, except the final prehearing conference, in child protection cases under the Maine Revised Statutes, Titles 19-A and 22. It would also increase child protection, mental health and domestic violence training requirements for all family law magistrates and require the training to be held annually.

CRIMES

DRUG RELATED

LR: 2476 Sponsor: Senator Maxmin, C of Lincoln
Title: An Act To Strengthen Maine's Good Samaritan Laws
Comment: This bill would strengthen the State's Good Samaritan laws by exempting from criminal liability everyone in the location of a call reporting a drug-related medical emergency and exempting all nonviolent offenses from criminal liability for everyone at the scene of a drug overdose. It would also add pre-pretrial and bail violation exemptions and add a mitigating factor and affirmative defense at trial for all other criminal charges.

CRIMINAL HISTORIES

CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORDS

LR: 2508 Sponsor: Representative Talbot Ross, R of Portland
Title: Resolve, To Continue the Work of the Criminal Records Review Committee
Comment: This resolve would require the Criminal Records Review Committee to report to the Legislature during the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature, at which time the committee could recommend any necessary legislation.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

OTHER

LR: 2502 Sponsor: Representative Talbot Ross, R of Portland
Title: An Act To Facilitate Data Collection in Order To Eliminate Profiling in Maine

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 879 - L.D. 1201

Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority To Engage Stakeholders in an Examination of Fair Chance Housing Policy Options

Sec. 1. Fair chance housing examination. Resolved: That the Maine State Housing Authority shall in collaboration with stakeholders examine fair chance housing policies considered or adopted in other jurisdictions. This examination must consider policies that may be adopted in the State to address housing issues for formerly incarcerated individuals and to expand housing opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals without creating an excessive burden for housing providers.

The authority shall invite stakeholders that include but are not limited to:

1. Formerly incarcerated individuals;
2. Housing providers that own, lease or manage residential housing units that:
 - A. Are owned or subsidized by the Federal Government or the State; or
 - B. Are financed in whole or part by government subsidies or tax credits;
3. Landlords or representatives of statewide organizations representing landowners and property managers;
4. Representatives from a statewide organization that represents the interests of currently incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals;
5. Representatives from a statewide civil legal aid and economic justice organization;
6. Representatives of civil rights organizations whose primary mission is racial equity and justice; and
7. Representatives of organizations that advocate for residents of the State in the following areas:
 - A. Disability rights;
 - B. Mental health;
 - C. Substance use disorder and recovery; and
 - D. Homelessness.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That no later than February 15, 2022 the Maine State Housing Authority shall submit a report that includes findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. The report must include a summary of any meetings that occur pursuant to section 1, a list of participants in the examination of fair chance housing policies, suggestions to increase the awareness among housing providers of the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in finding housing and any other relevant information. The report may include suggested legislation. The Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature based on the report.