132nd Maine Legislature – First Special Session

2025 NEW LAW UPDATE

New and Amended Statutes Relevant to Law Enforcement Officers

Effective September 24, 2025
(Unless otherwise noted)

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Preparer's Note

This New Law Update provides summaries of selected public laws that are relevant and important to most Maine law enforcement officers. The update features the new or amended statutory citations, along with links to the chaptered laws and the LDs that initiated the changes. It is highly recommended to review the full text of the chaptered law for a more complete understanding, especially before taking any enforcement action.

As you know, Maine has a diverse range of law enforcement officers. To keep this document concise, new or amended laws that are only relevant to officers specializing in targeted enforcement are not included.

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132nd Maine Legislature

Link to LDs
https://legislature.maine.gov/bills/billdirectory_ps.asp?snum=132&ldFrom=1

First Special Session
Link to Chaptered Laws
https://legislature.maine.gov/ros/LawsOfMaine/#Law/132/S1/ACTPUB/78

Do you have questions, suggestions, or other comments?

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Chapter 22 – LD 586 (Effective January 1, 2026)
An Act to Provide a Court Authority to Issue Proximity Restrictions in Protection from Abuse Orders
This law amends the PFA statute by adding a new section to grant the court the authority to issue a final protection order that directs the defendant to stay a certain distance away from the plaintiff or forbids the defendant from being present at a specific location.

Enacts 19-A MRSA §4110, sub-§3, ¶E-1

Chapter 63 – LD 1150
An Act to Require Reporting of Sheltering or Aiding Missing Children
This new law requires that if a person knowingly shelters or aids in obtaining shelter for a missing child for more than 24 hours without the consent of the missing child's parent, guardian or legal custodian, the person must provide information regarding the missing child's location and condition to a law enforcement officer who has contacted that person as part of an investigation of the missing child. A person who violates this provision is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed $250.

Enacts 25 MRSA §2157

Chapter 73 – LD 386
An Act Regarding Information That May Be Shared by Law Enforcement with a School Superintendent or a Principal
Current law allows law enforcement to share information with a school superintendent or principal about a juvenile when the information is credible and indicates an imminent danger to the safety of students or school personnel on school grounds or at a school function. This amendment supplements the law by allowing law enforcement to share information when it indicates a substantial danger with the use of a firearm or a dangerous weapon, without the necessity of demonstrating imminent danger.

*Amends **15 MRSA §3301-A, sub-§1***

Chapter 90 – LD 665
An Act Regarding the Use of Military Protective Orders in Protection from Abuse and Protection from Harassment Proceedings
This law defines a "military protective order" as a protection order issued by a military commanding officer against a service member. It allows the use of military protective orders in hearings for protection from abuse and harassment. The court may consider the existence of a military protective order when deciding whether to grant a request for a temporary protection order in such hearings. This law further amends the definition of “order” applicable to 19-A M.R.S. § 4113 to include a military protective order.

Enacts 5 MRSA §4651, sub-§3-A
Amends 5 MRSA §4654, sub-§2
Enacts 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§7-A
Amends 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§8, ¶C
Amends 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§8, ¶D
Enacts 19-A MRSA §4102, sub-§8, ¶E
Amends 19-A MRSA §4108

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Chapter 104 – LD 983
An Act Regarding Service of Notice of Restricted Person Status to Hospitalized Patients
This law amends the law governing hospital cooperation with law enforcement to permit law enforcement to request access to a patient for notification about restricted person status when an individual is taken into protective custody by an officer due to the potential for foreseeable harm. A hospital may disclose that a person is a patient to facilitate notice of a weapons restriction, regardless of the patient's consent or confidentiality restrictions. The hospital shall allow the law enforcement agency to notify the person at a time that the hospital considers clinically appropriate.

Enacts 22 MRSA §1727, sub-§1-A

Chapter 109 – LD 1651
An Act to Remove the Term "Alleged" When Referring to Victims of Sexual Assault in the Provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes
This law removes the term "alleged" when referring to victims of sexual assault in the Maine Revised Statutes. It also makes a technical change to clarify that the evidence collected during a forensic examination relates to an alleged sexual assault crime.

Amends 5 MRSA §3360-M
Amends 24 MRSA §2905-B, sub-§2
Amends 24 MRSA §2986
Amends 25 MRSA §2915
Amends 25 MRSA c. 407 headnote
Amends 25 MRSA §3821, 2nd ¶
Amends 30-A MRSA §287

Chapter 138 – LD 412
An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Self-administered Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Collection Kits
This law bans the sale or offering for sale of a self-administered sexual assault forensic evidence collection kit. It also clarifies that this ban does not affect the admissibility in court of evidence collected with such a kit. There is a rebuttable presumption that a violation constitutes a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

Enacts 25 MRSA §2915-A

Chapter 139 – LD 458
An Act Regarding the Domestic Violence Advocate Privilege
This law amends the statute concerning privileged communications between victims of domestic violence and domestic violence advocates by extending the privilege to an employee or volunteer of a domestic violence services provider who has completed at least 40 hours of training on state and federal laws, rules, and regulations related to confidentiality for victims of domestic violence, mandated reporting, civil and criminal legal procedures, advocacy skills, and local resources for victims.

Amends 14 MRSA §6001, sub-§6, ¶H
Amends 16 MRSA §53-B
Amends 16 MRSA §53-B, sub-§1
Amends 16 MRSA §53-B, sub-§1-A
Amends 16 MRSA §53-B, sub-§2
Amends 16 MRSA §806, sub-§4
Amends 17-A MRSA §2109, sub-§2

Chapter 158 – LD 950
An Act to Increase Access to Protection from Abuse Orders by Allowing Children to File Protection from Abuse Orders on Their Own Behalf
This law states that a child may petition for a protection-from-abuse order on the child's own behalf.

Amends 19-A MRSA §4103, sub-§2

Chapter 190 – LD 1568 (Effective June 9, 2025)
An Act to Allow the Use of a Siren in a Vehicle Used by a Harbor Master or Deputy Harbor Master
The law adds a municipal vehicle operated by a harbor master or deputy harbor master to the list of authorized emergency vehicles. The amendment also requires a municipality to ensure that a person appointed or reappointed as a harbor master or deputy harbor master has completed an emergency vehicle operation course provided by the State Police if they are operating a vehicle while exercising emergency privileges.

Amends 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶B
Amends 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§2, ¶F

Chapter 215 – LD 1445
An Act to Prevent Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults
This law authorizes a financial institution to report suspected financial exploitation of an adult aged 65 or older or an individual protected under the Adult Protective Services Act to the Office of the Attorney General (or to law enforcement if the event of a delay in disbursement due to suspected financial exploitation). The law also allows a financial institution to delay, for a specified period and under certain conditions, a disbursement from an account if financial exploitation is suspected. Additionally, the law permits a financial institution to provide access to or copies of records related to suspected financial exploitation to law enforcement agencies, and it designates such records as confidential when shared with them.

Amends 9-B MRSA §162, sub-§5
Enacts 9-B MRSA §162, sub-§5-A
Amends 9-B MRSA §162, sub-§6
Enacts 9-B MRSA §245

Chapter 219 – LD 1607
An Act to Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Adopt Written Policies Regarding Compliance with Certain Constitutional Obligations Related to Disclosure of Evidence
This law requires that, by January 1, 2026, law enforcement agencies develop written policies and procedures for assisting prosecuting agencies in complying with their constitutional obligations under *Brady v. Maryland* (1963) and *Giglio v. United States* (1972), as well as for mandatory disclosures to the Maine Criminal

Justice Academy. The policies must include the minimum standards established by the MCJA Board of Trustees.

Amends 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶N
Amends 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶O
Enacts 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶P
Enacts 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶Q

Chapter 302 – LD 1886
An Act to Include Serious Bodily Injury in the Law Governing Motor Vehicle Violations Resulting in Death
This law amends the law related to penalties for motor vehicle violations that result in the death of another person to also include violations that cause serious bodily injury to another person.

Amends 29-A MRSA §2413-A

Chapter 327 – LD 1146
An Act Regarding the Required State of Mind Relating to Robbery
This law amends Maine's robbery statute in response to the new federal standard set by *Counterman v. Colorado*, 600 U.S. 66 (2023). The law requires that an actor must *intentionally or knowingly* threaten a person while committing theft to have the culpable state of mind to be found criminally liable for robbery.

Amends 17-A MRSA §651, sub-§1, ¶B

Chapter 344 – LD 1695
An Act to Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Adopt Written Policies Regarding Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
This law requires law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies regarding procedures for handling persons believed to be experiencing commercial sexual exploitation or sex trafficking. The policies must include the minimum standards established by the MCJA Board of Trustees.

Amends 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶N
Amends 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶O
Enacts 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶P

Chapter 390 – 1984 (Effective June 20, 2025)
An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts, and Errors in the Laws of Maine
Section A-31 of this law makes a technical correction to clarify that a Maine criminal justice agency may disseminate confidential criminal history record information (CHRI) associated with each former and current legal name of a person whose name has been changed to any person or entity authorized to receive confidential CHRI information under sub-§1 of Title 16, §705, not only sub-§1-A.

Amends 16 MRSA §705, sub-§4

Chapter 433 – LD 82
An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Laws by Extending Indefinitely the Presumption Applying to Law Enforcement Officers,

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Corrections Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (Effective July 1, 2025)

Under current law, within the provisions that govern entitlement to compensation and services under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act, there is a rebuttable presumption that a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder arose out of and in the course of a worker's employment if the worker is a law enforcement officer, corrections officer, 9-1-1 dispatcher, firefighter, or emergency medical services personnel, and certain conditions are met. This rebuttable presumption was set to be repealed on October 1, 2025. However, this law eliminates the scheduled repeal and maintains the rebuttable presumption indefinitely.

Amends 39-A MRSA §201, sub-§3-A, ¶B

Chapter 447 – LD 172

An Act to Require the State Police to Create a Statewide List of Missing Persons and Study Improvements for Investigating Missing Persons Cases

This law mandates the State Police to create and maintain a publicly accessible website that lists all open missing persons cases in the state. The site must be updated at least once a month with new information. It also requires the State Police to establish a working group to review best practices for investigating missing persons cases, determine if those practices can be integrated into the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's curriculum, evaluate the effectiveness of the Silver Alert Program, and identify ways to enhance it. The State Police must provide a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by December 3, 2025, which may propose legislation during the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Enacts 25 MRSA §1512

Chapter 479 – LD 1427

An Act Extending the Statute of Limitations on Criminal Actions Involving Aggravated Sex Trafficking

This law states that a prosecution for a Class A or Class B crime involving aggravated sex trafficking must be initiated within 20 years of the offense. It also requires that the Criminal Law Advisory Commission review the statutes of limitations for sexual offenses committed against both adult and minor victims, and submit a report, including any recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary no later than December 15, 2025. The committee may then propose legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Amends 17-A MRSA §8, sub-§2-A

Chapter 496 – LD 1189 (Effective January 1, 2026)

An Act to Allow a Prosecutor to Determine Whether to Charge Certain Class E Crimes as Civil Violations

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This law provides that a prosecutor may elect to charge a defendant alleged to have committed an eligible Class E crime with a civil violation instead of the eligible Class E crime unless the defendant was arrested and objects to the substitution of a civil violation charge. In deciding whether to make this election, the prosecutor must consider the severity of the defendant's conduct, the impact of the conduct on the victim, any prior convictions or adjudications entered against the defendant, and any other factor relevant to whether a criminal or civil sanction will best accomplish the purposes of the general sentencing provisions in that particular case. The factors involved in the determination are not elements of the criminal offense or civil violation, and the determination is not subject to judicial review.

Enacts 17-A MRSA §19-A

ADDENDUM

Chapter 431 – LD 1849
An Act to Establish a Minimum Age at which Conduct Constitutes a Juvenile Crime and to Confer Jurisdiction to the Juvenile Courts over any Criminal Offense Committed by a Juvenile

This law amends parts of the Maine Juvenile Code. It updates the definition of "juvenile" to mean a person who has reached 11 years old but not 18. However, for the crimes of murder, felony murder, manslaughter, and the criminal attempts of those crimes, there is no minimum age. Previously, the definition of "juvenile crime" limited offenses under Title 12 and Title 29-A to those specifically listed in those titles. This new law removes those restrictions, making any crime under Title 12 and Title 29-A a juvenile crime if committed by a juvenile. The changes do not impact civil offenses unless they were already considered juvenile crimes. Lastly, these changes do not affect any charges, adjudications, or dispositions for conduct committed before September 24, 2025.

Repeals 12 MRS §6004
Repeals 12 MRS §8004
Repeals 12 MRS §10608
Amends 12 MRS §10701, sub-§3
Amends 15 MRS §10047
Replaces 15 MRS §3003, sub-§14
Amends 15 MRS §3103, sub-§1
Amends 15 MRS 3105-A, sub-§2, ¶C
Amends 15 MRS §3201, sub-§1
Repeals 15 MRS §3206
Amends 15 MRS §3301, sub-§6
Replaces 15 MRS §3301, sub-§7
Amends 15 MRS §3308-C, sub-§8
Amends 15 MRS §3310, sub-§4
Amends 15 MRS §3310, sub-§5, ¶A
Amends 15 MRS §3314, sub-§1, ¶G
Repeals 15 MRS §3314, sub-§3
Enacts 15 MRS §3314, sub-§3-C
Amends 15 MRS §3314-A
Amends 17 MRS §2872
Amends 17-A MRS §10-A, sub-§1
Amends 28-A MRS §2052, sub-§4
Repeals 29-A MRS §115
Amends 29-A MRS §2401, sub-§9, ¶B
Amends 29-A MRS §2401, sub-§9, ¶F
Amends 29-A MRS §2411, sub-§8
Amends 34-A MRS §1001, sub-§11
Repeals 34-A MRS §3802, sub-§1, ¶G

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