132nd Maine Legislature – Second Regular Session

2026 NEW LAW UPDATE

New and Amended Statutes Relevant to Law Enforcement Officers

Effective July 29, 2026
(Unless otherwise noted)

DIRIGO SAFETY, LLC

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Prepared by
Brian MacMaster
Chief Law Enforcement Consultant

Reviewed by
Scot Mattox, Esq.
Joshua Saucier, Esq.

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 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 relevant only 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

Second Regular Session

Link to Chaptered Laws

https://legislature.maine.gov/ros/LawsOfMaine/#Law/132/R2/ACTPUB/560

Do you have questions, suggestions, or other comments?

Brian MacMaster
Dirigo Safety, LLC
95 Main Street ▪ Auburn, ME 04210
brian.macmaster@dirigosafety.com

Chapter 510 – LD 1784 (Chapter 757 – LD 1004, Part C, as to implementation date)
An Act to Require Police Departments to Publish and Make Accessible Their Policies and Procedures and Require Training of Officers
This law requires law enforcement agencies to publish, by January 1, 2027, on their publicly accessible websites or in printed form, the mandatory policies outlined in 25 M.R.S. § 2803-B. It permits the redaction of confidential information under 16 M.R.S. § 804. It also requires that all law enforcement officers of an agency receive orientation and training on the policies and procedures, and that the agency annually certifies its compliance with the law to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Enacts 25 MRSA §2801-A, sub-§4-A *Enacts 25 MRSA §2808-B*
Enacts 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§8

Chapter 517 – LD 1971
An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities
This law limits state and local law enforcement from assisting or supporting federal immigration authorities in detentions or investigations. It bans holding individuals solely on the basis of immigration detainers and restricts the sharing of certain information. It effectively ends referrals of immigration-only status cases to the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and/or the U.S. Border Patrol (BP). The law's key provisions are:

Prohibitions: State, county, and local officers are barred from investigating, detaining, or arresting individuals solely for civil immigration enforcement purposes.

Hold Requests: Law enforcement cannot use personnel or funds to detain someone beyond their scheduled release date solely based on a "hold request" or detainer from ICE.

Information Sharing: Agencies are prohibited from sharing personal information or release dates with immigration authorities unless compelled by a court order or criminal warrant.

Mandatory Consent: Custodial agencies must secure written consent from inmates before permitting voluntary interviews with immigration authorities.

Exceptions: Local agencies can still collaborate with federal partners on criminal investigations involving serious crimes like human trafficking, drug trafficking, or terrorism.

Enacts 5 MRSA c. 337-E

Further Information: https://dirigosafety.com/police-law-in-a-nutshell-the-new-law-limiting-state-and-local-support-of-immigration-enforcement/

Chapter 524 – LD 61
An Act to Regulate Employer Surveillance to Protect Workers
This law specifies that an employer may use employer surveillance only if the employer informs the employee before surveillance begins. It prohibits an employer from using audiovisual monitoring in an employee's residence or personal vehicle, or on the employee's property, unless the employer requires the monitoring for the duties of the job. It also provides that an employee may decline an employer's request to install data-

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collection or transmission applications on the employee's personal electronic devices for surveillance purposes. It requires that an employer notify a prospective employee during the interview process that the employer engages in employer surveillance. The law does not apply to personal care services settings, and may not limit an employer's ability to comply with state and federal laws, rules, or regulations related to security, safety, and the transmission and handling of data. The law gives rule-making authority and enforcement power to the Department of Labor. A violation of the law is subject to a fine of $100 to $500.

Enacts 26 MRSA. c. 7, sub-c. 1-E

Chapter 531 – LD 784
An Act to Create a Rebuttable Presumption Related to Specialized Risk Screening for First Responders

If a first responder sues a health care plan carrier for wrongful death or for failing to exercise due care in making an adverse health care decision, and that decision relates to certain enumerated "specialized risk screening" recommended by the first responder's health care provider, this law creates a rebuttable presumption of negligence (or failure to exercise due care) on the part of the health care plan provider. The rebuttable presumption applies when the health care provider (e.g., doctor, PA, NP) has determined that the first responder's receipt of specialized risk screening is medically appropriate and has meaningful potential for preventive clinical benefit.

Enacts 24-A MRSA §4301-A, sub-§5-B
Enacts 24-A MRSA §4301-A, sub-§19-A
Enacts 24-A MRSA §4313, sub-§15

Chapter 537 – LD 1126
An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms

This law prohibits the manufacture, possession, importation, offer, sale, or transfer of undetectable firearms and firearms without serial numbers, including unfinished frames and receivers, within the State. It establishes requirements for federal firearms licensees to imprint serial numbers on certain firearms and firearm components. The law defines "undetectable firearm" as a firearm that can operate while in a form that is less detectable than a security exemplar, as defined in federal law. A security exemplar is a firearm that produces an image equivalent to 3.7 oz of iron or steel when subjected to typical security screening systems, such as airport security scanners. The law defines "firearm without a serial number" as a firearm that was not imprinted with a serial number by the importer or manufacturer in accordance with federal law, or a firearm whose imprinted importer or manufacturer serial number has been removed, obliterated, or altered. Firearms manufactured before 1969, antique firearms, and firearms rendered permanently inoperable are excluded from the definition of "firearm without a serial number."

Enacts 17-A MRSA §1060
Amends 25 MRSA §2016, sub-§1, ¶C
Amends 25 MRSA §2016, sub-§4, ¶B
Amends 25 MRSA §2016, sub-§4, ¶C
Enacts 25 MRSA §2016, sub-§4, ¶D
Enacts 25 MRSA c. 253-A

Chapter 541 – LD 2021

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An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Adults

Current law requires that reports to DHHS regarding adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation be made by telephone. This law adds an online reporting option to align state law with federal regulations issued in June 2024, which require states to provide at least two reporting methods, one of which must be online.

Amends 22 MRSA §3477, sub-§2

Chapter 545 – LD 2032 (Effective March 3, 2026)

An Act to Amend the Extreme Risk Protection Order Procedure

This law amends the laws governing extreme risk protection orders ("yellow flag" orders) by requiring that a copy of the judicial endorsement and all attachments be provided to the court. Previously, the law required only that a copy of the notification to the restricted person be filed with the court.

Amends 34-B MRSA §3862-A, sub-§4, ¶B

Chapter 546 – LD 2053 (Effective March 3, 2026)

An Act to Improve Safety by Allowing the Use of Variable-message Signs on Certain Vehicles

This bill allows the operator of an authorized public service vehicle to use a variable-message sign while the vehicle is stationary and engaged in roadside repair, loading or unloading a vehicle, vehicle recovery, or general traffic control. "Variable-message sign" means a traffic control device that displays and can change messages to provide information about traffic congestion, traffic crashes, maintenance operations, adverse weather conditions, roadway conditions, organized events, or other necessary roadway safety information. A variable-message sign may be used on a wrecker, police vehicle, fire department vehicle, Maine Turnpike safety service patrol vehicle, or highway maintenance vehicle.

Enacts 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶K
Enacts 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶L
Enacts 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§12

Chapter 572 – LD 1741

An Act Regarding Vacancies in the Office of Sheriff

This law provides that, in the case of a vacancy in the office of sheriff, if the county political committee submits one or more recommendations to the Governor for appointment as sheriff and the chief deputy is enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant, a chief deputy who is exercising the same rights and powers as the sheriff during the vacancy must be included for consideration for appointment as sheriff. It also specifies that if the office of sheriff becomes vacant because of death, resignation, or otherwise, the chief deputy has, and may exercise, the same rights and powers as the sheriff and is subject to the same duties and liabilities as a sheriff until the vacancy is filled.

Amends 30-A MRSA §371-B, sub-§2
Amends 30-A MRSA §381, sub-§3, ¶A
Amends 30-A MRSA §61385, sub-§1

Chapter 617 – LD 2207

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

This law eliminates the statute of limitations for aggravated sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of a minor if those crimes were committed against a victim who had not attained the age of 18 years. These changes apply only to criminal conduct occurring on or after September 1, 2026, or to conduct for which the statute of limitations does not bar prosecution before September 1, 2026.

Amends 17-A MRSA §8, sub-§1 *Amends 17-A MRSA §8, sub-§2-A*

Chapter 622 – LD 102

An Act to Notify the Public of Juveniles Who Have Escaped from a Department of Corrections Facility

This law allows the Department of Corrections to publicly disclose certain juvenile information to identify and apprehend a juvenile who has escaped from a DOC facility when there is probable cause to believe the juvenile poses a serious risk to the public or to the juvenile's own safety. The law also directs DOC to convene a working group to examine best practices for apprehending juveniles for whom a warrant of arrest has been issued, who have escaped from arrest, or who have escaped during transport following arrest. The working group's examination shall determine what juvenile intelligence and investigative record information, if any, should be made public to assist in the apprehension of wanted or escaped juveniles. The working group shall submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2027.

Enacts 15 MRSA §3308-A, sub-§4-A

Chapter 650 – LD 2212 (PART OOO of Supplemental Budget Bill)

An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Conduct an Inventory of Existing Forensic Examination Kits in the Possession of Law Enforcement

This law directs the Department of Public Safety to establish, operate, and maintain a sexual assault forensic examination kit tracking system for all completed kits, regardless of whether the alleged offense related to the kit was reported to a law enforcement agency. The tracking system must be continuously accessible to approved users. The department must submit a report by January 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, to the Legislature and Governor, regarding the status of sexual assault forensic examination kits reported in the tracking system. The law sets requirements for the tracking system and requires the department to adopt rules on participation in the system, confidentiality, and its operation. The law directs that, by October 1, 2027, a law enforcement agency that receives, maintains, stores, or preserves sexual assault forensic examination kits must complete an inventory of all kits in its possession and report its findings to the Department of Public Safety. The department must compile all agency reports and present the inventory findings to the Legislature by January 1, 2028, and post the report on the department's publicly accessible website. Finally, an earlier law in Title 25 required law enforcement agencies to store sexual assault forensic examination kits for 20 years. For consistency, this law amends a provision in Title 24 to require law enforcement agencies to store kits for 20 years.

Enacts 25 MRS § 2915-B *Amends 24 MRS § 2986, sub-§ 3*

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Amends 25 MRS § 3821

Chapter 670 – LD 2081
An Act to Provide Health Care Cost Reimbursement for Retired Law Enforcement Canines
This bill establishes the Retired Law Enforcement K-9 Health Care Fund, administered by the Department of Public Safety, to reimburse up to $5,000 in veterinary expenses for eligible retired law enforcement canines who served with a state law enforcement agency. To be eligible, canines must have served at least five years in active law enforcement duty or have been retired due to medical necessity. A law enforcement agency head may, at the agency head's sole discretion, provide additional reimbursement from that agency's budget without limit. The fund may also receive private donations, grants, and other funding sources.

Enacts 25 MRSA c. 203

Chapter 671 – LD 2058
An Act to Clarify the Requirement That Municipal and County Jails Be Available at All Times for Detention of Arrested Persons
Current law requires municipal and county jails to be available at all times for the detention of persons arrested by state or other law enforcement officers. This law retains that requirement but adds "unless the persons are detained solely for a civil violation of federal immigration laws," in which case the jails need not be available for the detention of such persons.

Amends 25 MRSA §1502, 6th ¶

Chapter 678 – LD 882
An Act to Protect Communication with Providers of Critical Incident Stress Management and Peer Support
This law defines "peer support" as a service distinct from critical incident stress management services and broadens the scope of communications protected as confidential to include those related to the provision of either type of service to an affected person, defined as a member or employee of an organization or agency providing certain safety or emergency care or response services. Before this law's effective date, only communications related to critical incident stress management were protected. This law changes that by designating communications from providers of critical incident stress management *and* peer support services as confidential. It authorizes providers of critical incident stress management and peer support services to disclose otherwise confidential information if disclosure is required by law or if the provider reasonably believes that an affected person poses a danger to themselves or others. It also provides that information about the physical or mental condition of an affected person is not confidential if that condition is at issue in a legal proceeding or a court considers it necessary to the proper administration of justice. It repeals the current law regarding critical incident stress management teams, and it requires that a peer support person be trained in accordance with accepted best practices. It further requires that a peer team be trained through an organized peer support training program that meets or exceeds the peer support training standards adopted by the International Association of Firefighters or the International Association of Chiefs of

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Police. It removes the requirement that a volunteer team coordinator be trained in accordance with best practices and standards established by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

Amends 25 MRSA c. 501, headnote
Repeals 25 MRSA §4201
Enacts 25 MRSA §4201-A
Repeals 25 MRSA §4202
Enacts 25 MRSA §4203

Chapter 714 – LD 1773
An Act to Criminalize Certain Offenses Related to Gift Card Thefts
This law defines "retail merchandise" for purposes of the crime of organized retail theft. "Retail merchandise" means any product, good, or other item of value that is displayed, held, stored, or offered by a retailer for retail sale to consumers. "Retail merchandise" includes, but is not limited to, tangible personal property, gift cards, electronics, and commodities.

Enacts 17-A MRSA §363, sub-§2

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