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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

April 5, 2022

TO: Senator Catherine E. Breen, Senate Chair
Representative Teresa S. Pierce, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Anne M. Carney, Senate Chair *AC*
Representative Thom Harnett, House Chair *TH*
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Re: Judiciary Committee prioritization

The Judiciary Committee worked from a list of 36 bills and legal services initiatives we developed that we believe are on or will go to the Special Appropriations Table (we don't have final fiscal information for all bills yet). During our meeting Monday afternoon, we were able to develop a list of our top priorities for funding. We identified the following as highest in importance in this order:

1. MCILS group of unanimous initiatives¹
2. MCILS Kennebec-Somerset Public Defender Office²
3. Civil Legal Services Fund baseline funding³
4. LD 906, An Act To Provide Passamaquoddy Tribal Members Access to Clean Drinking Water
5. LD 585, An Act To Enhance Tribal-State Collaboration, To Revise the Tax Laws Regarding the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation and To Authorize Commercial Tracks, the Oxford Casino, Off-track Betting Facilities and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes To Conduct Sports Wagering
6. LD 844, An Act To Examine and Amend the Conditions of Release and Probation
7. LD 1899, An Act To Ensure Safe Entry and Access for People Seeking Health Care and Other Constitutional Rights
8. LD 1310, An Act Regarding a Post-judgment Motion to Seal the Criminal History Record Information for Certain Criminal Convictions
9. LD 344, RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual
10. LD 54, An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Post-conviction Review in Order To Facilitate the Fair Hearing of All Newly Discovered Evidence

¹ The unanimous MCILS initiatives are the Rural Public Defender Unit, Legal Research Resources, Training, Contracts with Specialists, Increasing the Hourly Rate. See separate legal services memo.

² This initiative replaces LD 1686 that has been on the Special Appropriations Table since 2021. It is also described in the separate legal services memo.

³ This Civil Legal Services Fund initiative is different than LD 1326, which has been on the Special Appropriations Table since 2021, and Part JJ of the Supplemental Budget. See separate legal services memo.

11. LD 1904, An Act To Make Technical Corrections to the Maine Juvenile Code
12. LD 1626, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act
13. LD 1856, An Act To Eliminate Conflicts of Interest with Respect to the Payment of Fees to Bail Commissioners
14. LD 1950, An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Create a Plan To Incorporate the Probate Courts into the Judicial Branch
15. LD 1326, An Act To Provide Funding for the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund
16. LD 1273, An Act To Establish Conviction Integrity Units in Maine

Please let us know if you have any questions.