



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 924

H.P. 589

House of Representatives, March 11, 2025

**Resolve, Directing the Judicial Branch to Authorize the Lease of a  
Courthouse That Meets Accessibility and Functional Needs in the  
Town of Newport**

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Received by the Clerk of the House on March 5, 2025. Referred to the Committee on  
Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.  
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and  
Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: FARRIN of  
Somerset, MARTIN of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook.

**Sec. 1. Authorization and directive for lease. Resolved:** That the judicial branch shall enter into a long-term lease for a new courthouse facility in the Town of Newport. The facility must:

1. Comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 337, subchapter 5, to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities; and

2. Provide adequate space for court operations, including but not limited to:

A. Courtrooms and judicial offices; and

B. Conference rooms for attorney-client meetings, mediation sessions and other judicial purposes.

**Sec. 2. Funding for maintenance and repairs. Resolved:** That the lease agreement under section 1 must require the judicial branch to expend up to \$200,000 for maintenance and repair costs to the facility over the term of the lease. These funds must be drawn from within existing resources of the judicial branch.

**Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the judicial branch shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary no later than December 31, 2025, detailing:

1. The progress in securing the lease agreement under section 1;

2. Confirmation that the selected facility meets the requirements specified in section 1;  
and

3. An outline of the budgetary adjustments made to accommodate the lease and maintenance costs as required by section 2.

## SUMMARY

This resolve directs the judicial branch to enter into a long-term lease agreement for a new courthouse facility in Newport. The leased facility must comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the public accommodations provisions of the Maine Human Rights Act and include adequate space for courtroom operations. The resolve requires the judicial branch to dedicate up to \$200,000 from the judicial branch's existing resources for maintenance and repair. Finally, the resolve directs the judicial branch to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary no later than December 31, 2025 with information on the judicial branch's progress in securing the lease agreement.