

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 1177 - L.D. 1588

**Resolve, To Replace Certain Stigmatizing Language in the Maine Revised Statutes with Respectful Language**

**Sec. 1. Identification of stigmatizing language; substitution of respectful language. Resolved:** That the Revisor of Statutes shall review the Maine Revised Statutes, Titles 22, 22 A, 25 and 34 A for stigmatizing language in the laws governing the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Corrections. The Revisor of Statutes shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by January 15, 2022 and shall provide draft legislation to amend the laws of the 3 departments in the Titles identified to change stigmatizing language as described in this section to respectful language. The Revisor of Statutes shall recommend editing the laws as necessary to accommodate singular and plural forms, masculine and feminine forms and adult and minor forms and, when possible, shall use so-called person-first language. The stigmatizing language to be changed includes "prisoner," "inmate" and "convict," which must be changed to "resident of a correctional facility" or "resident of a jail"; "drug user," which must be changed to "person who uses drugs"; "probationer," which must be changed to "client of the Department of Corrections"; and "mentally ill person," which must be changed to "person with a mental illness."

**Sec. 2. Legislation. Resolved:** That based on the report from the Revisor of Statutes pursuant to section 1, the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety may report out legislation to change stigmatizing language in the Maine Revised Statutes, Titles 22, 22 A, 25 and 34 A to respectful language and direct the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Safety and Department of Corrections to amend their rules, policies, procedures, forms and publications to conform to the respectful language that is adopted by the Legislature.

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**LEGISLATURE**

**Legislature 0081**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to the Office of the Revisor of Statutes to contract with an outside entity to review Titles 22, 22-A, 25 and 34-A of the Maine Revised Statutes

for stigmatizing language and to prepare a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by January 15, 2022, with draft legislation to amend the laws to change the stigmatizing language to respectful language.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$11,400	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$11,400</u>	<u>\$0</u>