

The Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

LD 2290: "An Act to Correct the Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine" Before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary April 10, 2024

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am writing on behalf of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)¹ to suggest additional existing errors in the Maine statutes that could be addressed in this session's errors bill, all resulting from the recodification of Maine's Protection from Abuse statute in the 130th Legislature. The following provisions continue to refer to the now-repealed Title 19-A, Chapter 101, and need to be updated to instead refer to the existing Protection from Abuse statute codified in Title 19-A, Chapter 103.

- 19-A MRS §951-A(2)(C)(3), refers to now repealed Section 4002.
- 19-A MRS §951-A(5)(M-1) refers to now repealed Section 4002.
- 19-A MRS §953(1)(D) refers to now repealed Section 4002.
- 19-A MRS §1501(3) refers now repealed Section 4002.
- 19-A MRS §1653(2)(E) refers to now repealed Section 4014.
- 19-A MRS §1658(3-A)(B)(2)(b) refers to now repealed Section 4002.

These all deal with important forms of relief for survivors of domestic abuse and violence and their children. As many litigants in family court navigate those proceedings without the benefit of counsel, it is important that Maine's laws contain accurate cross references. I have been in touch with the Family Law Advisory Commission during their April meeting, and there was support for these errors to be addressed as timely as possible.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to offer this information for your consideration.

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¹ MCEDV serves a membership of eight regional domestic violence resource centers as well as two culturally specific service providers. Our member programs provided services to more than 12,000 victims of domestic violence in Maine last year.