

Maine State Bar Association  
Family Law Section  
RE: LD2142

Good afternoon Committee Members,

My name is Joseph Boisvert, I am currently the chair of the Maine State Bar Associations' Family Law Section. In addition, I myself am a family law practitioner in southern Maine who has represented hundreds of individuals throughout their family matter proceedings.

The Family Law Section (FLS) represents one of, if not *the* largest collection of family law practitioners in the state. Our opinions are as varied as are our practices. I want to be clear that, while I may have my own opinion of the proposed legislation, my testimony here is to provide feedback to LD2142 from the section as a whole. At this time, the section takes **no position** on the proposed legislation. **Please note** that the following comments reflect input from members of the Family Law Section; the Maine State Bar Association has not taken a position on the proposed legislation.

LD2142, and more generally a formula for calculating general spousal support, has been a hotly debated issue amongst practitioners for some time. This issue is complex and one that many of us deal with on a daily basis in order to support families through important and life altering decisions that affect themselves and their children. While the section was unable to arrive at a unified position prior to this public session, the FLS as a whole has roared to life over the discussion of this issue.

LD2142 has many aspirational goals that many section members can agree on: to provide *consistency* in spousal support awards, *clarity* in how it is calculated and *confidence* in the legal system that the formula is one which gives both parties an equitable resolution to an emotional process - one which results in the dissolution of their marriage.

As a procedural backdrop, it is important to explain how we arrived here. Upon my appointment as the Chair of the Family Law Section in October of 2025, a subcommittee was formed to review and assess the current proposed legislation. This subcommittee met in November, December and again in January. After each respective meeting our progress was reported back to our section at large during our monthly meetings. During each recap, section members were encouraged to provide feedback regarding the LD2142, the subcommittee's progress and the sections' response to that progress.

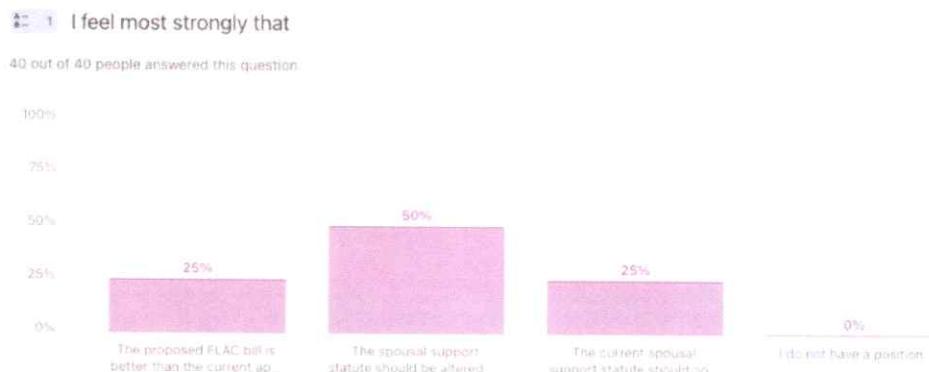
After the most recent meeting on January 6, 2026. The subcommittee released a position paper to the section as a whole, along with a single question poll asking each section member to respond and give feedback to LD2142.

The poll was as follows:

Question: "I feel most strongly that:"

- A. The proposed [LD2142] bill is better than the current approach to spousal support
- B. The spousal support statute should be altered, but with a different calculation than the proposed [LD2142] bill.
- C. The current spousal support statute should not be altered at this time.
- D. I do not have a position.

Of the 176 current section members, 40 responded to the poll. A response rate of 23%. For clarity, this is an above average response to polling within the section. Of that 40, 25% (10 votes) voted in support of LD2142. 50% (20 votes) voted that that the spousal support statute should be modified, but with a different calculation than LD2142. 25% (10 votes) voted that the current spousal support statute should not be altered at this time. An illustrative figure can be found below:

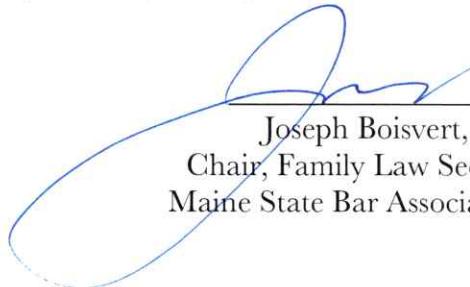


In addition to the survey, a larger meeting was conducted during our monthly meeting on January 12, 2026. Attendance for this meeting was well above average. During this meeting there was significant debate regarding LD2142 including whether the section supported it, whether there should be an alternate formula proposed, and what impact the current legislation, if passed, would have on Maine families.

Because of the timing of this public comment, as it aligned with our monthly meetings, the section has not taken a formal vote to take a position on this bill. Nor do I want the survey data above to be considered representative of the section as a whole. This data represents some section member's position on the pending legislation and it is my role to ensure that you have this information when discussing this bill.

While my appointment has been brief thus far, we look forward to future ways in which the section can collaborate with the legislature in support the families of Maine on this or other topics. I am happy to answer any questions the committee has, to the extent I have been authorized to

answer those questions I will do my best to do so. As always, thank you for your time and attention to this matter.



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