

132nd Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 29

Senator Anne Carney
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

Testimony of Senator Anne Carney introducing
LD 2142, An Act to Establish Guidance for Awarding General Spousal Support
before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
January 22, 2026

Chair Kuhn and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Judiciary, my name is Anne Carney, I represent Senate District 29 and I am honored to introduce LD 2142, “An Act to Establish Guidance for Awarding General Spousal Support.”

LD 2142 is a Family Law Advisory Commission bill that seeks to improve the equity of spousal support awards for litigants in divorce cases. Current statute directs judges to consider various factors before granting or denying a spousal support order but does not offer any guidance on deciding the amount of that award. Informed by approaches in other states and by input from legal professionals, LD 2142 proposes to modernize Maine’s family law by introducing a calculation procedure as a starting point for setting spousal support amounts – while maintaining judicial discretion in order to address the unique and complex circumstances of many marriages. LD 2142 further ensures children’s financial needs are met before awarding any spousal support.

LD 2142 aims to build a fair and predictable decision-making process for parties in divorce, leveraging the consistency of a partial quantitative approach to spousal support calculations while also preserving judicial discretion to holistically assess the facts of each case. Thank you for your consideration, and please direct questions to the members of the Family Law Advisory Commission present today.