



Administrative Office of the Courts

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4.2.21

Judicial Branch testimony neither for nor against LD 775, An Act to Include Within the Definition of “Public Employee” and “Judicial Employee” Those Who Have Been Employed for Less Than 6 Months:

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Julie Finn and I represent the Judicial Branch. I would like to provide additional information on this bill.

As you have heard, this bill provides that a person who has been an employee of the Judicial Branch for less than 6 months is considered a judicial employee. Judicial employees may be dismissed, suspended, or otherwise disciplined without cause during the probationary period and may not grieve the disciplinary action.

We would, however, like to take this opportunity to point out that Title 26 MRS § 1294, which is part of the Judicial Employees Labor Relations Act (JELRA), states “This Act shall not be amended without first consulting the Supreme Judicial Court.” There are at least four bills pending in this Committee that would amend the JELRA and we would like to respectfully remind the Committee that consultation is necessary. The extent of the consultation may vary depending on the content of the legislation at issue.

Thank you very much for your time.