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Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:48:13 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-jjutdmcr.jpg](#)
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This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Hi there,

Following up from our conversation earlier today, the Maine Monitor has been reporting on the challenges at Maine Indigent Legal Services for years, and has compiled the reporting on one landing page: <https://www.themainemonitor.org/indigent-defense/>



Indigent Defense | The Maine Monitor

Maine defense lawyers were routinely recorded by four county jails in the past year while having confidential conversations with clients. The majority of county jails, however, are refusing to hand over call records.

www.themainemonitor.org

Of particular interest are the older stories toward the bottom, including this one about the overbilling issue and lack of financial accountability:

<https://www.themainemonitor.org/government-oversight-votes-to-investigate-maine-commission-on-indigent-legal-services/>



Government Oversight votes to investigate Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services

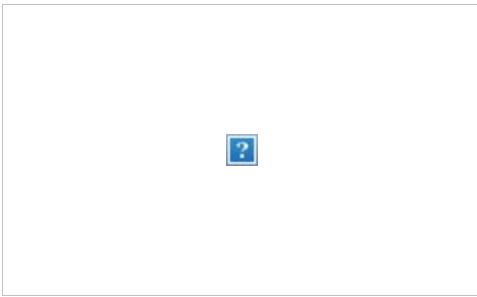
An investigation into how Maine pays private attorneys for defending the state's poor was unanimously approved by the Government Oversight committee on Tuesday as lawmakers grapple with how to separate "actual overbilling" from billing errors uncovered in a series of reports over the last three years.

www.themainemonitor.org

And this one on the agency's failure to meet deadlines on reform language:

<https://www.themainemonitor.org/missed-deadline-will-delay-major-public-defender-reforms/>



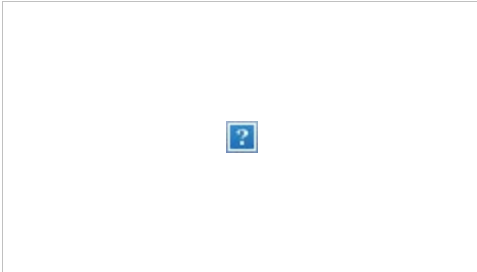


Missed deadline will delay major public defender reforms - The Maine Monitor

Advisors to Maine's public defense system were expected to finalize a package of reforms on Tuesday to share with state lawmakers next month but instead learned that they had missed a deadline to submit rule changes by more than five weeks, delaying major changes until at least 2021.
www.themainemonitor.org

For a quick tutorial on all the issues surrounding the agency's challenges, this is a comprehensive read:

<https://www.themainemonitor.org/maine-public-defense-under-scrutiny-five-things-to-know/>



Public defense under scrutiny: Five things to know

The specter of fraud has shaded Maine's public defense system for the past three years while lawmakers and a hired consultant investigated the state agency that oversees court-appointed lawyers for Maine's poor.
www.themainemonitor.org

Judith Meyer, Executive Editor

[Sun Journal](#)

[Kennebec Journal](#)

[Morning Sentinel](#)

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