MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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	SECOND REG	GULAR SES	SION	
ONE	HUNDRED AN	ID TENTH L	.EGISLATUR	E
Legislative Docum	ent		No	. 1738
S. P. 742 Approved for i	O introduction by the		cretary of the Council purs	
	the Committee o	on Judiciary s	suggested and	1,400
Presented by Ser			etary of the	Senat e
	STATE (OF MAINE		
NIN	IN THE YEAF NETEEN HUNDI			
AN AC	CT Permitting Serve on		s to	**************************************
Be it enacted by	the People of	the State of	Maine as fo	ollows:
14 MRSA §12 repealed and the	211, as amenc following enact			461,
§1211 Qualificati	ons and exempt	tions from ju	ry service	
A person	is qualified	for jury	service if h	ne: ls
citizen of the Ur				sident
the county; is English languag		, speak a	nd underst endering sat	
jury service; pr	ovided that n	o person r	nav be dis	squalifi
solely because of			aring in an	
or other disal	bility which	substantiall		or inte
feres with the per	rson's mobility.	<u> </u>		

A person is disqualified if he has lost the right to vote because of a criminal conviction. A person claiming disqualification by reason of physical or mental inability to render satisfactory jury service may be required to submit a physician's certificate as to the disability, and the certifying physician is subject to inquiry by the court at its discretion.

The following persons are exempt from serving as jurors and their names shall not be placed on the list: The Governor, councilors, judges, clerks and deputy clerks of common law courts, Secretary and Treasurer of State, all officers of the United States, judges of probate, physicians and surgeons, dentists, sheriffs, counselors and attorneys-at-law.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit deaf persons to serve on juries. Deaf citizens of Maine have historically been denied the opportunity to serve on the jury in the civil and criminal cases in the state courts. While the present intent of the law is unclear, the practice of discrimination against deaf persons has been obvious by the reason of deafness. The past several years have witnessed a growing number of states permitting deaf persons to qualify for jury duty in the court. Deafness should not be an excuse or a reason for the disqualification of any deaf person who may be called into the process of the juror selection.

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