

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 2226

H.P. 1579

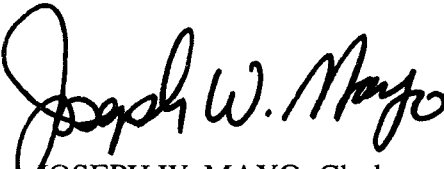
House of Representatives, May 12, 1999

An Act Relating to Remedies for Unlawful Housing Discrimination.

(AFTER DEADLINE)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SAXL of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator: LONGLEY of Waldo.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4622, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 400,
§2, is further amended to read:

6 **1. Limitation.** Attorney's fees under section 4614 and civil
7 penal damages or compensatory and punitive damages under section
8 4613 may not be awarded to a plaintiff in a civil action under
9 this Act unless the plaintiff alleges and establishes that, prior
10 to the filing of the civil action, the plaintiff first filed a
complaint with the commission and the commission either:

12 A. Dismissed the case under section 4612, subsection 2;

14 B. Failed, within 90 days after finding reasonable grounds
15 to believe that unlawful discrimination occurred, to enter
16 into a conciliation agreement to which the plaintiff was a
17 party; or

18 C. Issued a right-to-sue letter under section 4612,
19 subsection 6 and the action was brought by the aggrieved
20 person not more than 2 years after the act of unlawful
21 discrimination of which the complaint was made as provided
22 in section 4613, subsection 2, paragraph C.

23 This subsection does not apply to or limit any remedies for civil
24 actions filed under subchapter V if one or more additional causes
25 of action are alleged in the same civil action that do not
26 require exhaustion of administrative remedies.

27 This subsection does not apply to or limit any remedies for civil
28 actions filed under subchapter IV.

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33 **SUMMARY**

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35 **36** This bill amends the Maine Human Rights Act by removing
37 limitations of attorney's fees and damages for civil actions
38 based upon discrimination in housing.