

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/23/15

L.D. 181  
(Filing No. H-91)

JUDICIARY

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
127TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 139, L.D. 181, Bill, "An Act To Create  
10 Efficiencies in Court Process"

11 Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the  
12 summary and inserting the following:

13 'Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §8-C is enacted to read:

14 **§8-C. Rules concerning electronic records and filing**

15 **1. Rules and orders; processes and procedures.** Notwithstanding any other  
16 provision of law, the Supreme Judicial Court may adopt rules and issue orders to permit  
17 or require the use of electronic forms, filings, records, e-mail and electronic signatures  
18 whenever paper forms, filings, records, written notice, postal mail and written signatures  
19 are required for judicial, legal or any other court-related process under the Maine Revised  
20 Statutes.

21 The Supreme Judicial Court, by rule, may determine any other processes or procedures  
22 appropriate to ensure adequate preservation, disposition, integrity, security, appropriate  
23 accessibility and confidentiality of the electronic records.

24 **2. Electronic signatures.** An electronic signature may be accepted as a substitute  
25 for and, if accepted, has the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature. The  
26 Supreme Judicial Court shall determine the type of electronic signature required, the  
27 manner and format in which the signature is affixed to the electronic record and the  
28 criteria that must be met by a party, including attorneys, filing a document.'

29 SUMMARY

30 This amendment replaces the bill but retains the provision of the bill that provides the  
31 Supreme Judicial Court the authority to adopt rules governing the use of electronic forms  
32 and filing processes. This amendment authorizes the judicial branch to accept electronic  
33 signatures, which is already authorized for executive branch agencies under the Maine  
34 Digital Signature Act.