

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

# THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

**A. D. 1844.**

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*AUGUSTA:*  
WM. R. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS.

1844.

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TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

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No. 36.]

[HOUSE.

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AN ACT

IN RELATION TO THE

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

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[WM. R. SMITH & Co....Printers.]

# STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
February 23, 1844.

**ORDERED**, That 500 copies of the following Bill, be printed  
for the use of the House.

WM. T. JOHNSON, *Clerk.*

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# STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND  
FORTY-FOUR.

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**AN ACT** to promote the speedy and economical ad-  
ministration of justice.

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WHEREAS protracted litigation is ruinous to the  
2 parties concerned, and highly injurious to the public  
3 at large, and it is the duty of the Legislature to pro-  
4 vide means by which the decision of civil causes may  
5 be as speedy and attended with as little expense as  
6 the nature of the case will admit :

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Represen-  
2 tatives in Legislature assembled*—as follows :

3 From and after the first day of May in the year of  
4 our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four,  
5 in any action which may be pending in the Supreme  
6 Judicial Court or in the District Court for any dis-  
7 trict wherein the title to real estate shall not be in  
8 question; or the debt or damage claimed shall not  
9 exceed the sum of three hundred dollars, either party  
10 at the first term in which said action is entered, may  
11 offer, and consent in writing (and the same shall be  
12 entered of record, and the time when the offer is

13 made) to refer the action by rule of court, to one or  
14 more referees, to be mutually agreed upon by the  
15 parties, and if they cannot agree to be appointed by  
16 the court; and if the other party accepts the said  
17 offer the action shall be referred accordingly. But if  
18 the other party neglect or refuse to accept the same,  
19 he shall recover no cost from the date of such offer.