

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
Judiciary

BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1983

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442 AN ACT RAISING THE LIMIT ON SPEED- Trafton PL 1983, c. 107
ING VIOLATIONS WHICH CAN BE PRO-
CESSED BY THE DISTRICT COURT
TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BUREAU

SUMMARY: Raises the speed limit violations which can be processed by the court violations clerk from 15 to 29 miles per hour over the speed limit. This allows speeders to plead guilty and pay their fine without having to appear in court unless they exceeded the speed limit by 30 miles or more.

481 AN ACT TO AMEND MAINE'S WRONGFUL Soule INDEF. PP.
DEATH LAW

SUMMARY: The original bill sought to permit awards of damages for wrongful deaths that included an amount reflecting the decedent's capacity to earn money if he had lived, rather than, as current law does, leaving damages to be assessed according to the actual pecuniary loss suffered by the decedent's beneficiaries. The Committee amendment of the bill left in place the pecuniary loss measurement of damages, but changed another portion of the wrongful death statute, raising the limit on the amount recoverable for loss of comfort, society, and companionship from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

482 AN ACT TO LIMIT THE PERSONAL LI- Soule INDEF.PP
ABILITY OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
UNDER THE MAINE TORT CLAIMS ACT

SUMMARY: Sought to extend to employees of political subdivisions of the State a \$10,000 limit on personal liability under the Tort Claims Act. This \$10,000 limit already applies under current law to State employees.

483 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE DAMAGES Hobbins PL 1983, c. 275
JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT TO
\$30,000

SUMMARY: Increases the jurisdiction of the District Court from civil actions in which damages of \$20,000 or less is demanded to civil action in which damages of \$30,000 or less is demanded.