

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

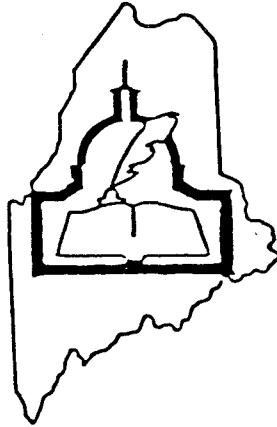
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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD: 734 AN ACT TO ALLEVIATE THE EXCESS WORK IN THE  
COURT SYSTEM

PERKINS  
LEBOWITZ  
MCSWEENEY  
ROLDE

LV-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY: Sought to require a court, in any civil action (except one involving divorce, judicial separation, or workers' compensation) involving a monetary claim to award reasonable attorneys' fees against an attorney or party who has brought a civil action or defense that the court finds to have been substantially groundless.

LD: 735 AN ACT TO CLARIFY RECOVERABLE COSTS IN  
CIVIL ACTIONS

CARPENTER  
STETSON  
WARREN

OTP-AM HOUSE Enacted  
SENATE Enacted  
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC  
CH # 384

S-223 CA H S

SUMMARY:

Clarifies and codifies in one place in the statutes the current practices regarding recovery of costs in civil actions currently governed by several archaic and unclear statutes and court rules.

LD: 748 AN ACT CONCERNING THE COURTROOM USE OF  
VIDEOTAPED TESTIMONY OF JUVENILES

NADEAU G G  
ROLDE  
CARPENTER  
MARTIN J

LV-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

Current law permits a child under 14 years of age who has been the alleged victim of sexual abuse to testify outside of the courtroom in a criminal case concerning that abuse if the judge in the case finds that the emotional or psychological well-being of the child will in fact be substantially impaired if the child were to testify in court. This bill sought to lessen the high standard of certainty that impairment of the child will occur before out of court testimony may be ordered to the more realistic standard of a risk of impairment. Similar provisions are included in LD 1386.