

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 28

S. P. 15

In Senate, January 7, 1965

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Cahill of Somerset.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Statements of Ministers, Priests and Rabbis as Privileged Communications.

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

R. S., T. 16, § 156, additional. Title 16 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 156 to read as follows:

'Sec. 156. Religious confessionals. An ordained minister of the gospel, priest or rabbi shall not be forced to testify in court, in civil or criminal proceedings, to statements made to him by a person under the sanctity of a formal act of religion or concerning a matter of conscience. The person entitled to the benefit of the penitent and clergyman privilege is the penitent. Such statements made under the sanctity of a formal act of religion or concerning a matter of conscience shall be deemed privileged communications and such privilege may not be waived.'