

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 309

H. P. 227

House of Representatives, January 21, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Lund of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Permitting Trials for Petty Offenses Without a Jury.

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

R. S., T. 15, § 1261, additional. Title 15 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 1261, to read as follows:

§ 1261. Petty offenses; trial without jury

The Supreme Judicial Court shall by rule establish a procedure to regulate trials for petty offenses without a jury. "Petty offenses" are defined as those offenses punishable by fine only and not by imprisonment or those offenses punishable by fine or imprisonment, or by both, in which the court, in advance of trial, shall have waived its authority to impose a jail sentence.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of the bill is to attempt to unclog the judicial system in Maine because of the vast number of cases which require a jury trial, many of which involve petty offenses which could better be served by trials without a jury.