

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 691

H. P. 529

House of Representatives, February 9, 1971

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Cottrell of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Repealing the Law Relating to Sterilization.

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

R. S., T. 34, §§ 2461 - 2468, repealed. Sections 2461 to 2468 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes are repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The problem of sterilization should be removed from general legal control and be placed under the direct responsibility of the medical profession where it would be subject to the medical-legal controls pertaining to other medical and surgical procedures. The subject of sterilization is a matter of personal decision between a woman, or a man, and a competent physician, and not a matter of public legislation. The existing law on sterilization is archaic, unduly restrictive and irrelevant to current professional treatment of problems originally intended to be resolved by the existing legislation, originally enacted in the mid 1800's.