

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1291

H. P. 937

House of Representatives, March 3, 1971

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

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Doyle of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

**AN ACT Relating to Privileged Communications between
Certain Professional Persons and Their Clients.**

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

R. S., T. 16, § 56-A, additional. Title 16 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 56-A to read as follows:

§ 56-A. Privileged communications; professional persons

Except at the request of, or with the consent of, the client, no professional person, including but not limited to, mental health therapists, counselors, school guidance counselors, social workers and clergymen shall be required to testify in any civil or criminal action respecting any information which he may have acquired in his professional capacity in communications with his client.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act would protect the counselor-client relationship. In the case of clergymen, the communication would not have to be penitential, nor would the client have to be a member of the clergyman's faith.

It is essential that a client have confidence in the confidentiality of his communications to a counselor.