

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 171

S. P. 69

In Senate, January 16, 1973

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Tanous of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT Providing for Irreconcilable Marital Differences as a Ground for
Divorce.**

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

R. S., T. 19, § 691, amended. The first sentence of section 691 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

A divorce from the bonds of matrimony may be decreed in the county where either party resides at the commencement of proceedings, for causes of adultery, impotence, extreme cruelty, utter desertion continued for 3 consecutive years next prior to the filing of the complaint, gross and confirmed habits of intoxication from the use of intoxicating liquors, opium or other drugs, cruel and abusive treatment **or the marital differences are irreconcilable and the marriage has broken down** or, on the complaint of the wife, where the husband being of sufficient ability or being able to labor and provide for her, grossly or wantonly and cruelly refuses or neglects to provide suitable maintenance for her, provided the parties were married in this State or cohabited here after marriage, or if the plaintiff resided here when the cause of divorce accrued, or had resided here in good faith for 6 months prior to the commencement of proceedings, or if the defendant is a resident of this State.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the title.