

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 529**

H. P. 400

House of Representatives, January 31, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Wheeler of Portland.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-THREE

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### **AN ACT Relating to Court Jurisdiction under Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act and Uniform Civil Liability for Support Act.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 19, § 332, sub-§ 1, amended.** Subsection 1 of section 332 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 1 of chapter 393 of the public laws of 1971, is further amended to read as follows:

**S. Court.** "Court" means the ~~Superior Court or the~~ District Court of this State and when the context requires means the court of any other state as defined in a substantially similar reciprocal law.

**Sec. 2. R. S., T. 19, § 393, amended.** The 3rd and 4th sentences of section 393 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes are amended to read as follows:

Jurisdiction of all proceedings hereunder shall be vested in the ~~Superior Court or the~~ District Court.

All proceedings may be commenced and acted upon ~~by the Superior Court in vacation before a single justice as well as in term time or~~ by the District Court.

**Sec. 3. R. S., T. 19, § 393, amended.** Section 393 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read as follows:

Appeals on questions of law only may be taken from the District Court to the Superior Court.

**Sec. 4. R. S., T. 19, § 398, amended.** The first sentence of section 398 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes, as repealed and replaced by section 10 of chapter 393 of the public laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

~~As~~ **The** initiating court shall not require payment of either a filing fee or other costs from the obligee but may request the responding court to collect fees and costs from the obligor.

**Sec. 5. R. S., T. 19, § 445, amended.** Section 445 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

**§ 445. Jurisdiction**

The ~~Superior Court and the~~ District Court shall have jurisdiction of all proceedings brought under this subchapter.

**Sec. 6. R. S., T. 19, § 449, amended.** Section 449 of Title 19 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

**§ 449. Appeals**

Appeals may be taken from orders under this subchapter as in other civil actions and **appeals on questions of law only may be taken from the District Court to the Superior Court.**

**Sec. 7. Application.** All cases, on the effective date of this Act, pending in the Superior Court shall remain in the Superior Court until disposed of.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to give jurisdiction to the District Court in cases under the Support Acts with rights of appeal on questions of law to the Superior Court.