

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 788

H. P. 597

House of Representatives, February 12, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dunleavy of Presque Isle.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to **Credibility of Witnesses.**

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

R. S., T. 16, § 56, amended. Section 56 of Title 16 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

§ 56. Prior conviction as affecting credibility

No person is incompetent to testify in any court or legal proceeding in consequence of having been convicted of an offense, but conviction of a felony, any larceny or any other crime involving moral turpitude may be shown to affect his credibility, **provided that less than 15 years have transpired since said conviction and less than 10 years have transpired since termination of any incarceration period therefor.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would allow a person who has paid his debt to society to testify in court without having to undergo the embarrassment of his past mistakes being aired in public when his past record would be irrelevant to the issue at hand.