

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 857

H. P. 641

House of Representatives, February 13, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Ault of Wayne.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Provide Copies of Public Documents Filed with the County.

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

R. S., T. 30, § 351, amended. Section 351 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 10 of chapter 318 of the public laws of 1969, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read as follows:

The county commissioners in each county of the State shall maintain at all times, within their respective counties, for the convenience of the general public, a coin-operated or similar self-service machine for copying public documents filed with the county at a fee not to exceed 10¢ per page.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Price fixing at an unusually high level in fees for copying public documents is presently a custom in our counties. With the advance in technology in recent years, what was once a conventional fee for copying has now become hopelessly out of step with the competitive price structure. Starting about 12 years ago, private business and public libraries and other establishments began to lease copying machines from the private sector to be re-rented to the individual for copying graphic material. The private use and demand for the services of these machines has brought the common price level down to not in excess of 10¢ per page and to 5¢ in some cases. Counties, on the other hand, are still charging as high as \$1 per page for copying a single page, as much as 10 times the street price. The introduction of the leased, private sec-

tor copying machine, individually operated, will largely terminate this abuse of privilege.