

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 347**

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H. P. 297

House of Representatives, January 23, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Faucher of Solon.

Cosponsor: Mr. Carey of Waterville.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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### **AN ACT Restricting the Use of Personal Recognizance as Bail to Persons Committing Misdemeanors.**

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

15 MRSA, § 942, sub-§ 1, 1st ¶, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 760, is amended to read:

Any person charged with an offense, other than an offense punishable by life imprisonment, shall at his appearance before a judge of the District Court, or bail commissioner, be ordered released pending trial on his personal recognizance, **if the offense is a misdemeanor**, or on execution of an unsecured bond, **if the offense is a misdemeanor or a felony**, which shall be in writing signed by said person on forms approved by the Chief Judge of the District Court, unless said judge or bail commissioner determines in the exercise of his discretion that such release will not reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required.

### STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to restrict the use of personal recognizance as bail to persons committing misdemeanors. Currently, a felon may be released pending trial on his or her personal recognizance.