

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
107TH LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT" A' to S.P. 171, L.D. 577, Bill, "AN ACT
Relating to Venue in the Superior Court."

Amend said Bill by striking out everything after the enacting
clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §508, as last amended by PL 1965, c. 356,
§9, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§508. Transfer of venue

A presiding Justice of the Superior Court may, upon obtaining
agreement of the parties, transfer any civil action or proceeding
from the Superior Court in one county to the Superior Court in
another county in the judicial region in which the case originated.

All parties may consent to any civil action or proceeding
being brought in or transferred to any county in any judicial region
other than the one in which venue is proper or to which transfer
is permitted provided that the prior approval of the presiding
justice of the judicial region where the case is to be brought or
transferred is obtained.

Sec. 2. 14 MRSA §1257 is enacted to read:

§1257. Regional juries

The Supreme Judicial Court is authorized to prescribe by rule
or order the selection of juries from regions consisting of a single
county or a reasonably compact group of counties for trials of crim-
inal prosecutions or civil actions in the Superior Court. If the

Supreme Judicial Court shall by rule provide for such regions for the purpose of selection of juries, this chapter shall be applied to such regions and to such regional juries and the word "counties" where it appears in this chapter shall be read to mean "region."

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court may appoint commissioners jury _____ for any such regions in accordance with section 1251, provided that the salaries and expenses of such jury shall be commissioners/ in such amounts as shall be determined and approved by said Chief Justice.

Sec. 3. 15 MRSA §1, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

The Supreme Judicial Court may by rule provide that, with the consent of the defendant, criminal prosecutions may be conducted at locations other than those provided by law.'

Statement of Fact

The purposes of this amendment are to provide for flexibility within the state's judicial system by allowing the transfer of civil cases with the consent of all parties, and of criminal cases, with the consent of the defendant, to courts in other counties of the State. This amendment accomplishes this purpose without the necessity of establishing of statewide venue as provided for in the bill that is being amended.

Reported by the Committee on Judiciary.

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