

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1185

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H. P. 947

House of Representatives, March 20, 1975

On Motion of Mr. Gauthier of Sanford, referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Joyce of Portland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT to Provide for the Identification of Past Offenders.

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

15 MRSA § 1702-A is enacted to read:

§ 1702-A. Fingerprints required on certain sentences

All persons convicted of a crime for which the possible penalty is a sentence of one year or more and all persons actually sentenced to the Men's Correctional Center or the Women's Correctional Center, whether or not such sentence is suspended, shall be required by the court to imprint the impressions of their fingers on the judgment of conviction.

The Supreme Judicial Court shall by rule provide for implementation of the above section and for appropriate judgment of conviction forms.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Legislature has enacted many crimes and created other situations which require proof of conviction of some earlier crime. Among these are possession of a gun by a felon, many escapes and any situation in which the penalty is enhanced for a 2nd offense. It is necessary to prove not only that the present defendant has the same name, but that he is the same person who was previously convicted, and it is often difficult to find a witness who can make such an identification. This bill is designed to cure the problem.