

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2008

H. P. 1843

House of Representatives, January 19, 1976

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Clark of Freeport.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT to Provide Court Interpreters for Deaf Persons.

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

16 MRSA § 2 is enacted to read:

§ 2. Interpreters for a deaf witness or a deaf party

The Supreme Judicial Court shall, by rule, provide that in any criminal or civil case in which a witness is deaf, the court hearing the case shall appoint a qualified interpreter who shall take testimony from the witness in the language of signs for the deaf, by lipreading or by writing, and who shall interpret this testimony for the record. The Supreme Judicial Court shall also, by rule, provide that in any criminal or civil case in which a party is deaf, the court hearing the case shall appoint a qualified interpreter who shall interpret for that party, by means of the language of signs for the deaf, lipreading or writing, all oral evidence taken by the court in that case.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill authorizes a court to appoint an interpreter to aid the court in taking testimony from deaf persons and to interpret court proceedings to parties who are deaf, as these persons often need an interpreter's services because of their low verbal ability or because of their use of sign language.