

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 2061**

H. P. 1883

House of Representatives, January 22, 1976

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs. 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-SIX

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**AN ACT Concerning the Identification by Fingerprints of Past Offenders.**

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

15 MRSA § 1702-A, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 398, is amended to read:

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~~ **may** be required by the court to imprint the impressions of their fingers on the judgment of conviction.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Chapter 398 of the Public Laws of 1975 provided that persons convicted of crimes for which the penalties were one year or more and persons sentenced to the Men's or Women's Correctional Center were required to imprint their fingerprints on the judgments of conviction. Because the courts in some areas of the State find it difficult to obtain persons to properly oversee this fingerprinting, this new statute may result in unnecessary hardships for parts of the Maine judicial system.

This bill makes the taking of fingerprints permissive instead of mandatory, thus permitting certain courts to dispense with fingerprinting where it would cause administrative difficulties.