

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 698

H. P. 574

House of Representatives, March 2, 1977

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Byers of Newcastle.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Provide for 8-person Juries in Civil Cases.

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

14 MRSA § 1204, last ¶, as amended by PL 1975, c. 41, § 1, is further amended to read:

The Supreme Judicial Court may by rule provide for the trial of civil actions only by juries of not less than 6 8 jurors; provided, however, that the parties to a civil suit may stipulate that the jury may consist of any number less than 6 8 jurors.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to increase the number of persons on juries in civil actions from 6 to 8 to correct the tendency, which experience has demonstrated of 6-person juries to be subject to domination by one or 2 strong-willed individuals and to provide a greater cross section of persons deliberating, thereby rendering more just verdicts.