

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 847

S. P. 287

In Senate, March 1, 1979

On Motion of Senator Katz of Kennebec, referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Danton of York.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Simplify the Requirements for Licensing Certain Clergymen to Perform Marriages.**

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

**19 MRSA § 121, 2nd sentence**, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**Every ordained minister of the gospel, clergyman engaged in the service of the religious body to which he belongs or person licensed to preach by an association of ministers, religious seminary or ecclesiastical body, whether a resident or nonresident of this State, and of either sex, may solemnize marriages therein if the religious organization, body or association with which he is associated has been organized for at least 50 years or if he, upon application duly filed with the Secretary of State, has been licensed for that purpose.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit clergymen or ministers who are members of religious groups which have been in existence for at least 50 years to perform marriages without first obtaining a license from the State.