

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1443

H. P. 1168

House of Representatives, March 23, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Sewall of Newcastle.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT Concerning Limited Decrees for Alimony.

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

19 MRSA § 721, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 564, § 86, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

The court may, upon agreement of both parties, decree alimony to either spouse under the condition that the decree shall be effective for a certain period of time and the decree shall cease to be effective after that time unless renewed, modified or extended as justice requires. A decree for alimony issued pursuant to this section shall not extend for any period beyond a period equal to the amount of time which the spouses were married. A limited decree of this type may be used in situations where the financial needs of the spouse receiving alimony are likely to change within a certain time following issuance of the decree. These situations include, but are not limited to, situations where a spouse is seeking an educational degree, vocational training or work experience after the completion of which his financial need will be substantially altered. Any decree issued pursuant to this paragraph shall cease to be effective upon the remarriage of the spouse receiving alimony.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to permit courts to issue limited alimony decrees under special circumstances where the financial needs of the parties may change within a limited period of time as, for example, where a spouse is going to school and needs financial support only until he graduates.