

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Governor's Bill)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1862

H. P. 1746

House of Representatives, January 24, 1980

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk of the House

Presented by Ms. Benoit of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY

**AN ACT to Allow Reasonable Attorneys' Fees as a Remedy in an Action under the
Maine Human Rights Act.**

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

5 MRSA § 4613, sub-§ 2, ¶ B, sub-¶ (8) is enacted to read:

(8) **An order to pay reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

A recent decision of the Law Court held that the present language of the Maine Human Rights Act is not sufficiently clear to permit the courts to reimburse a private citizen for attorneys' fees and other costs incurred in gaining relief from the court for unlawful discrimination. This relief is necessary to ensure that the average private citizen has the ability to enforce rights guaranteed under the Act.