

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 157**

H. P. 109

House of Representatives, January 8, 1981

Speaker laid before the House and on Motion of Mr. Brannigan of Portland, referred to the Committee on Business Legislation. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. Beaulieu of Portland.

Cosponsor: Mr. Hanson of Kennebunkport.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

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**AN ACT to Prohibit Fingerprinting by Merchants in Negotiation of Checks.**

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

11 MRSA § 3-209 is enacted to read:

• **§ 3-209. Fingerprinting in negotiation of checks to merchants**

**No merchant may require any person to supply his fingerprint or to submit to fingerprinting as a condition for the negotiation of a check.**

STATEMENT OF FACT

A few merchants in this State have begun requiring customers who pay by check to submit to fingerprinting. This practice is obnoxious and offensive to personal dignity. Fingerprinting is not essential to customer identification and fingerprints may serve as the master key for unauthorized persons to gain access to confidential information contained in an individual's financial, military service or criminal justice records. Fingerprinting by merchants should be stopped before it becomes commonplace. This bill forbids merchants from requiring customers who pay by check to subject themselves to fingerprinting.