

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 608

S. P. 221

In Senate, February 4, 1981

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator Kerry of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

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

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 4513, sub-§ 2, ¶ B, sub-¶ (7) is amended to read:**

(7) An order to pay the complainant civil penal damages not in excess of \$100 in the case of the first order under this Act against the respondent, not in excess of \$250 in the case of a 2nd such order against the respondent, and not in excess of \$1,000 in the case of a 3rd or subsequent such order against the respondent; and

**Sec. 2. 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 incurring in gaining relief from the court for unlawful discrimination. The relief is necessary to ensure that a private citizen has the ability to enforce rights guaranteed under the Act.