

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-309)
110TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to H.P. 864, L.D. 1025, Bill,
"AN ACT to Protect Privacy in Divorce and Child Custody Actions."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'19 MRSA §695 is enacted to read:

§695. Divorce or custody proceedings

1. Exclusion of public. In a divorce action or an action for child custody under this chapter, at the request of either party, personally or through his attorney, unless the other party who has entered an appearance objects personally or through his attorney, the court may, for good cause shown, exclude the public from the court proceedings.

2. Scope. If the public is excluded under subsection 1, only the parties, their attorneys, court officers and witnesses may be present.

Statement of Fact

This amendment permits exclusion of the public from divorce or child custody proceedings in court only if, upon request of either party, without objection from the other party, the court, in its discretion, for good cause shown, allows the exclusion.

This amendment also deletes the paragraphs of the bill providing for confidentiality of the records of a divorce or custody action and directing where the proceeding is to be held if the public is excluded.

Reported by Report "B" of the Committee on Judiciary.
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