

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

---

---

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

---

---

**Legislative Document**

**No. 1272**

H. P. 1069

House of Representatives, March 12, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representatives Connolly of Portland.

Cosponsors: Representative Ketover of Portland and Senator Conley of Cumberland.

---

---

STATE OF MAINE

---

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

---

**AN ACT Relating to Child Prostitution.**

---

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

**Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA § 853-A, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 499, § 1, is amended to read:**

**2. Engaging in prostitution is a Class E crime except that it is subject only to the penalties provided in section 1301, unless the defendant has not attained his 18th birthday, in which case the disposition provided in Title 15, section 3314 is applicable.**

**Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA § 855 is enacted to read:**

**§ 855. Patronizing prostitution**

**1. A person is guilty of patronizing prostitution if he gives or agrees to give a pecuniary benefit in return for another's prostitution as defined in section 851, subsection 1.**

**2. The agreement to give or the giving of the pecuniary benefit shall be made to the person whose prostitution is sought or to a 3rd person.**

**3. Patronizing prostitution is a Class E crime unless the person whose**

**prostitution is sought or acquired has not yet attained his 18th birthday, in which case, it is a Class D crime.**

#### STATEMENT OF FACT

The first section of the bill is merely a legal clarification. It more clearly ties the minor who is involved in prostitution to the dispositions available to the court by means of the Juvenile Code.

The 2nd section is a new one making it illegal for one to seek or obtain for money sexual favors from a minor. This is considered an important deterrent to the sexual exploitation of minors. It also places the responsibility for the illegal action on the adult rather than the child-victim.