

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1426

H.P. 1056 House of Representatives, May 4, 1987  
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and  
ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk  
Presented by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Senators GAUVREAU of Androscoggin, BUSTIN  
of Kennebec, and Representative RACINE of Biddeford.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Concerning the Requirements of  
Practicing Law.

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

4 MRS A §806-B is enacted to read:

§806-B. Renewal of license to practice subject to  
condition

No person who is admitted to practice as an at-  
torney in this State may be eligible for annual re-  
newal of his license if he does not certify to the  
Board of Overseers of the Bar that he has accepted  
one case from the Maine Volunteer Lawyers' Project  
during the year preceding that for which he seeks re-  
newal of his license. This section shall not apply

1 to any person receiving a salary from the Federal  
2 Government, State Government or any county or municipi-  
3 pal government in this State.

4 STATEMENT OF FACT

5 The population increase in Maine is creating an  
6 urgent need for free legal services to low-income  
7 people in civil cases. The Maine Volunteer Lawyers'  
8 Project has been acting as a clearinghouse, linking  
9 persons with legal needs with lawyers willing to as-  
10 sist them. Typical matters requiring legal aid in-  
11 clude evictions, divorce, child custody, bankruptcy  
12 and defense of civil liability suits. The Maine and  
13 Federal Bar Associations have a long history of doing  
14 pro bono work. This bill spreads this growing urgent  
15 responsibility over the whole Maine bar membership by  
16 requiring each private practice lawyer to take one  
17 pro bono case to be relicensed annually.

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