

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 1885

H.P. 1383 House of Representatives, September 30, 1987
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Received by the Clerk of the House on September 29,
1987. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and 1,400
ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 14.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative GWADOSKY of Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Representatives THISTLE of Dover-Foxcroft.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 AN ACT Relating to Out-of-court Statements
2 made by Minors.
3

4 Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legis-
5 lature do not become effective until 90 days after
6 adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

7 Whereas, there are children in Maine who are the
8 victims of sexual crimes; and

9 Whereas, the mental or physical well-being of
10 these victims is jeopardized by the requirement that
11 they testify in open court; and

12 Whereas, the defendants in these cases may be re-
13 leased from jail or may never be brought to court be-
14 cause the victims are unable to testify in open
15 court; and

1 14-year-old victim is as vulnerable to mental or
2 physical instability as a 13-year-old victim when
3 confronted with the perpetrator of the crime in the
4 court room.

5 This bill will consequently allow prosecution of
6 persons who are currently accused of sexual crimes
7 but who may be released or never tried for these
8 crimes unless the current law is changed.

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