# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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#### SECOND REGULAR SESSION

## ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

# Legislative Document

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NO. 1955

H.P. 1444 House of Representatives, January 7, 1988
Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative PARADIS of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Senators BLACK of Cumberland and BRANNIGAN
of Cumberland.

## STATE OF MAINE

# IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

- AN ACT to Authorize the Use of Electronic
  Recording of Nonjury Superior Court
  Proceedings.
  4
- 5 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as 6 follows:
- 7 Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §651, sub-§2, as enacted by PL
  8 1987, c. 152, is repealed.
  - Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §651, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

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Superior Court. The Superior Court in nonjury trials and other proceedings.

STATEMENT OF FACT

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much as possible.

This bill provides statutory authority for the use electronic recording of nonjury trials proceedings in the Superior Court. Despite extensive recruiting efforts, the Superior Court has been unable recruit and hire sufficient official reporters on a regular and consistent basis because of a national shortage. This has resulted in placing great pressure on the existing staff of official court reporters. It also has resulted in the delay in transcript production because the existing official court reporters is kept in the courtroom as

The use of electronic recording in nonjury trial proceedings in the Superior Court to augment the use of official court reporters will permit more selective of official court reporters to assionment priority proceedings. Nonjury proceedings are likely to result in requests for transcripts. official court reporters may lose their jobs because introduction of electronic recording The District Court technology. uses electronic recording equipment exclusively to record 26 proceedings.

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