

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

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Legislative Document

No. 1175

H.P. 843

House of Representatives, April 13, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ed Pert'.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative GREENLAW of Standish.

Cosponsored by Representative CONLEY of Portland, Representative SIMPSON of Casco and Senator TITCOMB of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

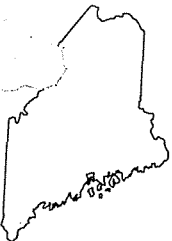
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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

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An Act to Describe the Division of Southern Cumberland of the 9th  
Maine District Court.

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

3 4 MRSA §153, sub-§8 is repealed and the following enacted in  
5 its place:

7 8. Southern Cumberland. Southern Cumberland consists of  
8 the municipalities of Pownal, North Yarmouth, Yarmouth,  
9 Cumberland, Falmouth, Cape Elizabeth, Scarborough, Portland,  
10 South Portland, Westbrook, Gorham, Gray and New Gloucester. The  
11 District Court for Southern Cumberland shall be held at Portland.

13 STATEMENT OF FACT

15 This bill provides improved and more convenient District  
17 Court facilities to the communities of Raymond, Windham and  
18 Standish by reassigning them from the Maine District Court  
19 Division of Southern Cumberland, which is held in Portland, to  
20 the Division of Northern Cumberland, which is held in Bridgton.  
21 Northern Cumberland is presently described as consisting of all  
22 communities not included in the divisions of Southern or Eastern  
23 Cumberland. Eastern Cumberland consists of the municipalities of  
24 Freeport, Brunswick and Harpswell.

25 The Southern Cumberland Division is the busiest District  
27 Court in the State, with calendar year 1988 projected workload  
28 approaching 60,000 cases. Its facilities in the basement of the  
29 Cumberland Country Courthouse in Portland are crowded and  
30 obsolete.

31 The Northern Cumberland Division which sits at Bridgton is,  
33 by contrast, one of the least busy District Courts in the State,  
34 with 1988 projected filings of less than 5,000 cases. As of  
35 March 1, 1989, it will sit in new, handicapped-accessible  
36 facilities in Bridgton which can easily absorb the likely  
37 workload from the communities of Raymond, Windham and Standish.  
38 Bridgton is also more convenient to the residents of these  
39 communities than is a courthouse in downtown Portland.