

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 666

H.P. 472

House of Representatives, February 19, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

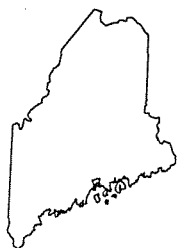
Presented by Representative MARSANO of Belfast.

Cosponsored by Senator CONLEY of Cumberland, Senator GAUVREAU of Androscoggin and Representative STEVENS of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act Regarding Release of Joint Tort-feasors.



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

2
4 14 MRSA §163, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 19, is amended to read:

6 **§163. Release of joint tort-feasors**

8 Whenever a person seeks recovery for a ~~personal-injury-or~~
10 ~~property death or~~ damage caused by 2 or more persons, the
12 settlement with or release of one or more of the persons causing
the ~~injury--shall~~ damage is not be a bar to a subsequent action
against the other person or persons also causing the injury
damage.

14
16 Evidence of settlement with a release of one or more persons
causing the ~~injury--shall~~ damage is not be admissible at a
18 subsequent trial against the other person or persons also causing
the injury damage. After the jury has returned its verdict, the
20 trial judge shall inquire of the attorneys for the parties
whether such a settlement or release has occurred. If such
22 settlement or release has occurred, the trial judge shall reduce
the verdict by an amount equal to the settlement with or the
consideration for the release of the other persons.

24
26 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

28 This bill amends the current law regarding release of joint
30 tort-feasors to clear up an ambiguity and to make the terminology
consistent with the comparative negligence law.