

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 720

H.P. 529

House of Representatives, February 4, 1997

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Confidentiality of Library Records.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WATSON of Farmingdale.
Cosponsored by Senator TREAT of Kennebec and
Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, O'NEIL of Saco, PIEH of Bremen, POWERS of
Rockport, RICHARD of Madison, SHIAH of Bowdoinham.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 27 MRSA §121**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 67, is
4 further amended to read:

6 **§121. Confidentiality of library records**

8 Records maintained by any public municipal library,
10 including the Maine State Library, the state Law and Legislative
12 Reference Library and libraries of the University of Maine System
14 and the Maine Maritime Academy, that contain information relating
16 to the identity of a library patron relative to the patron's use
of books or other materials at the library, are confidential.
Those records may only be released with the express written
permission of the patron involved or as the result of a court
order.

18 Public municipal libraries shall have up to 5 years from the
20 ~~effective date of this chapter~~ September 23, 1983 to be in
compliance comply with this section.

22 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill requires the state Law and Legislative Reference
26 Library to keep library records identifying patrons in connection
with the library materials they use confidential.