

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document


No. 1178

H.P. 861

House of Representatives, February 25, 1997

**An Act to Allow Paralegals to Represent Clients in Small Claims Cases
or Alternative Dispute Resolution.**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative STEDMAN of Hartland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: JONES of Pittsfield, JOY of Crystal, LABRECQUE of
Gorham, LANE of Enfield.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §807-B is enacted to read:**

6 **§807-B. Representation by paralegals in small claims or
alternative dispute resolution**

8 On adoption of rules by the Supreme Judicial Court, a
10 paralegal may represent a client in an action cognizable as a
12 small claim under Title 14, chapter 738 or in alternative dispute
14 resolution recognized by the Supreme Judicial Court. The Supreme
16 Judicial Court may adopt rules specifying qualifications for
18 paralegals authorized to represent a client under this section.
20 Qualifications must include graduation from an accredited
22 paralegal training course at an institution of higher education.

18 **SUMMARY**

20 This bill permits paralegals to represent clients in small
22 claims cases and in alternative dispute resolution according to
rules adopted by the Supreme Judicial Court.