

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R. O. S.

L.D. 1372

DATE: 3-10-98

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JUDICIARY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 992, L.D. 1372, Bill, "An Act to Unify the Court System"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, Directing the Judicial Department to Develop Recommendations to Implement Court Unification'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. Convene task force. Resolved: That the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court shall convene a task force to develop recommendations to implement the unification of the Superior and District Courts. The Chief Justice shall select the task force membership, which may include:

1. District Court judges;
2. Superior Court justices;
3. Supreme Judicial Court justices;
4. Court clerks;
5. District attorneys;
6. Legal services representatives;
7. Maine State Bar Association members;
8. Legislators;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

- 2 9. Maine Trial Lawyers Association members;
- 4 10. Public members; and
- 6 11. Any other interested parties; and be it further

8 **Sec. 2. Reports. Resolved:** That the task force submit
 10 periodic reports to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial
 12 Court. The Chief Justice shall submit to the joint standing
 14 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary
 matters an interim report by March 15, 1999 and a final report by
 December 15, 1999, including any necessary legislation; and be it
 further

16 **Sec. 3. Drafting assistance. Resolved:** That, upon request, the
 18 Legislative Council shall provide staff to assist in drafting
 legislation; and be it further

20 **Sec. 4. Compensation. Resolved:** That the members of the task
 22 force shall serve without per diem or expenses.'

24 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
 summary the following:

26
 28 **FISCAL NOTE**

The Judicial Department will incur some minor additional
 30 costs to convene a task force to develop recommendations to
 32 implement a court unification. These costs can be absorbed
 within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department.

34 The additional costs associated with providing drafting
 36 assistance to the task force can be absorbed by the Legislature
 utilizing existing budgeted resources.'

38
 40 **SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill and directs the Chief
 42 Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to convene a task force to
 44 develop recommendations to implement the unification of the
 Superior and District Courts. The task force shall report
 46 periodically to the Chief Justice and the Chief Justice shall
 48 submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the
 Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by March
 15, 1999 and a final report by December 15, 1999, including any
 necessary legislation. It also adds a fiscal note.