

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

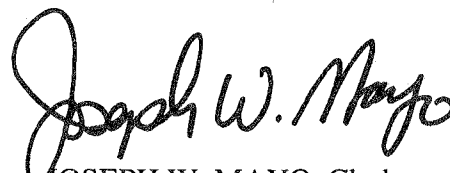
No. 1587

H.P. 1131

House of Representatives, March 19, 1997

An Act to Establish Procedures for the Release of Confidential Information.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative BUNKER of Kossuth Township.

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §408-A is enacted to read:

§408-A. Individual information

1. Inspection of individual information. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person may inspect and copy information in the custody of the State specifically about that person except that the State may deny a request to inspect or copy the information if that information relates to an ongoing civil or criminal investigation and is confidential under any other law.

2. Time and cost of inspection. A person may inspect and copy information as permitted in subsection 1 during the regular business hours of the agency or official having custody of the information. If the inspection can not be accomplished without translation of mechanical or data compilations into some other form, the State may require the person desiring inspection to pay the cost of translation in advance. The State may schedule translation and inspection to occur at a time that will not delay or inconvenience the regular activities of the agency or official having custody of the information. A person requesting copying of information under this section shall pay the cost of copying.

3. Release of liability. A person inspecting or copying information under this section shall sign a release of liability exempting the State from any liability to the person based on the information inspected or copied under this section.

SUMMARY

This bill permits a person to inspect and copy specific information in the custody of the State about that person except that the State may deny an inspection or copying request if the information about the person relates to an ongoing civil or criminal investigation and is confidential under any other law. The bill also provides for permitted times of inspection and associated procedures and costs. The bill also requires a person seeking inspection or copying of the information to release the State from any liability based on the information sought.