

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1938


H.P. 1384

House of Representatives, December 15, 1997

**Resolve, Directing the Preparation of a Bill to Make Nonsubstantive
Changes to the State's Criminal Statutes.**

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Received by the Clerk of the House on December 11, 1997. Referred to the Committee on
Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative THOMPSON of Naples.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts and resolves of the
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after
adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

4
6 **Whereas,** an interagency task force is in the process of
preparing a uniform offense table to be used in computerized
record-keeping systems by a number of state agencies; and

8
10 **Whereas,** the preparation of that table has revealed a number
of instances when one statutory element contains multiple
criminal offenses or civil violations; and

12
14 **Whereas,** the revision of the Maine Revised Statutes to
create a strict one-to-one relationship between a unique
statutory citation and each criminal offense or civil violation
will increase efficiency and accuracy in law enforcement and
judicial administration; and

18
20 **Whereas,** the best time to undertake such a project is
between adjournment of the Second Regular Session of one
Legislature and the commencement of the First Regular Session of
the next Legislature; and

24 **Whereas,** unless this resolve is enacted as an emergency, the
revision cannot be completed during the legislative interim; and

26
28 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore, be it

32
34 **Sec. 1. Task force. Resolved:** That the Maine Criminal Justice
Information System Policy Board, established by the Maine Revised
Statutes, Title 16, section 633 and referred to in this resolve
as the "MCJUSTIS Board," shall convene a task force to review the
Maine Revised Statutes that contain criminal offenses or civil
violations and to prepare a bill revising the statutes to create
a one-to-one relationship between each crime or civil violation
and a unique statutory citation. The bill prepared by the task
force may not contain any other substantive revisions to the
State's statutes; and be it further

44 **Sec. 2. Membership; staffing. Resolved:** That the Chief Judge
of the District Court shall act as chair of the task force. The
MCJUSTIS Board shall appoint such other members to the task force
as are necessary to accomplish its work. The Department of
Public Safety, the Department of the Attorney General, the
Judicial Department and the Legislative Council shall provide
staffing assistance to the task force. Other

2 Executive Department agencies shall provide advice and technical
3 assistance as requested by the task force, and other state
4 agencies may be requested to provide advice and technical
5 assistance as well; and be it further

6 **Sec. 3. Voluntary service. Resolved:** That the members of the
7 task force serve without additional compensation or reimbursement
8 of any type; and be it further

10 **Sec. 4. Reports. Resolved:** That MCJUSTIS Board shall submit a
11 final report and proposed legislation to the joint standing
12 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary
13 matters by January 1, 1999. The proposed legislation must
14 accomplish the purpose of this resolve without making additional
15 substantive changes to the Maine Revised Statutes.

16 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
17 preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

20

SUMMARY

22

23 This resolve authorizes the Maine Criminal Justice
24 Information System Policy Board to convene a task force to
25 prepare a revision to the State's statutes to create a one-to-one
26 relationship between each crime or civil violation contained in
27 the Maine Revised Statutes and a unique statutory citation. The
28 board is directed to submit a nonsubstantive revision of the
29 Maine Revised Statutes to the joint standing committee of the
30 Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters by January
1, 1999.