

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R. d. S.

L.D. 1148

DATE: 5-26-99

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JUDICIARY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 825, L.D. 1148, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Maine Tort Claims Act"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 2. 14 MRSA §8104-B, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Failure or malfunction of computer. The direct or indirect failure or malfunction of computer hardware, computer software or any device containing a computer processor or chip that fails to accurately or properly recognize, calculate, display, sort or otherwise process dates or times as a result of the Year 2000 problem. This provision applies to failures or malfunctions occurring before January 2, 2001.

For purposes of this section, the "Year 2000 problem" means complications associated with using a 2-digit field to represent a year and its result on the year change from 1999 to 2000. These complications may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Erroneous date calculations;
B. An ambiguous interpretation of the term "00";
C. The failure to recognize the year 2000 as a leap year;
D. The use of algorithms that use the term "99" or "00" as a flag for another function;

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E. Problems arising from the use of applications, software or hardware that are date sensitive; and

F. The inability to distinguish between centuries.'

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

FISCAL NOTE

This bill may decrease the number of civil suits filed in the court system. The Judicial Department may realize some minor savings from reductions of workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of cases that will no longer be filed. Reductions in the collection of filing fees may decrease General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

The State and local units of government may avoid some increased costs related to lawsuits. The amount of the potential costs that may be avoided can not be determined at this time.'

SUMMARY

This amendment more clearly defines the Year 2000 problem as those complications associated with using a 2-digit field to represent a year. Examples of those complications are included. This provision covers problems occurring before January 2, 2001. The amendment also adds a fiscal note.