## MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 363

H.P. 285

House of Representatives, January 30, 2001

Millient M. Macfailand

An Act to Clarify the Law Regarding Name Changes.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative MITCHELL of Vassalboro.
Cosponsored by Senator LONGLEY of Waldo and
Representatives: BERRY of Livermore, COLWELL of Gardiner, DUDLEY of Portland,
JACOBS of Turner, MENDROS of Lewiston, NORBERT of Portland, SCHNEIDER of
Durham, SIMPSON of Auburn.

	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 18-A MRSA §1-701, as amended by PL 1997, c. 18, §2
4	and affected by §6, is further amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:
6	
	If the person shows that the person is or was a victim of
8	domestic abuse by the person's spouse, the judge may change the
	person's name without providing notice to the spouse.
10	
12	SUMMARY

This bill gives the probate court judge discretion concerning whom to notify when a person petitions the court for a name change. If the person shows that the person is or was a victim of domestic abuse by the person's spouse, the judge is not required to notify the spouse of the name change.