

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 756

H.P. 577

House of Representatives, February 13, 2007

An Act To Enhance and Clarify the Small Claims System

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative THERIAULT of Madawaska. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and
Representative: DILL of Cape Elizabeth.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §7484-A, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

3 **3. Recording; waiver of fees.** Rules adopted under this section must require the
4 electronic recording of all hearings under this chapter.

5 Notwithstanding any law, rule or order, if the court determines that a party may proceed
6 in forma pauperis, the court may not require that a transcript or copy of a record be
7 submitted by that party in any related proceeding or appeal unless the court has waived
8 payment of any necessary fees.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This bill makes changes in the small claims procedures. First, it requires the court to
11 record all small claims hearings. Second, it prohibits the court from requiring that a
12 transcript or record be submitted in any related proceeding or appeal if the party was
13 given leave to proceed in forma pauperis unless the court has waived the fees related to
14 the preparation of the transcript or record.