

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 871

S.P. 296

In Senate, March 5, 2013

**An Act To Protect Victims of Domestic Violence by Waiving Their
Filing Fees in Divorce Actions**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LACHOWICZ of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook and
Senators: CRAVEN of Androscoggin, GRATWICK of Penobscot, MAZUREK of Knox,
Representatives: CASSIDY of Lubec, FARNSWORTH of Portland, JONES of Freedom.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §901, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 731, Pt. ZZZ, §29
3 and affected by §42, is further amended to read:

4 **1. Filing of complaint; grounds.** A person seeking a divorce may file a complaint
5 for divorce in the District Court if:

6 A. The plaintiff has resided in good faith in this State for 6 months prior to the
7 commencement of the action;

8 B. The plaintiff is a resident of this State and the parties were married in this State;

9 C. The plaintiff is a resident of this State and the parties resided in this State when
10 the cause of divorce accrued; or

11 D. The defendant is a resident of this State.

12 The complaint must state one or more grounds listed in section 902, subsection 1.

13 The fee for filing the complaint must be waived if the plaintiff shows proof satisfactory to
14 the court that the plaintiff has a protection from abuse order issued pursuant to chapter
15 101 in effect against the defendant when the complaint is filed.

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill waives the filing fee in a divorce action for a person who has a protection
18 from abuse order in effect against the defendant when the complaint is filed.