

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 779

S.P. 223

In Senate, February 12, 2019

**An Act To Improve the Definition of "Strangulation" in the
Aggravated Assault Laws**

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety 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 CLAXTON of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senators: DESCHAMBAULT of York, MILLETT of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRS §208, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 358, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 C. Bodily injury to another under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to
5 the value of human life. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, the
6 number, location or nature of the injuries, the manner or method inflicted, the
7 observable physical condition of the victim or the use of strangulation. For the
8 purpose of this paragraph, "strangulation" means the ~~intentional~~ impeding of the
9 breathing or circulation of the blood of another person by applying pressure on the
10 person's throat or neck. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This bill removes the requirement that the act of strangulation has to be intentional in
13 order to be considered aggravated assault.