

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 690

H.P. 502

House of Representatives, March 4, 2021

An Act To Ensure That Victims of Assault, Battery and False Imprisonment, Including Victims of Domestic Violence, Have Parity under Tort Law

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 2, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representative: CARDONE of Bangor, Senator: KEIM of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §753**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 804, §§1 and 22, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§753. Two years**

5 Actions for ~~assault and battery, and for false imprisonment~~, slander and libel ~~shall~~ must
6 be commenced within 2 years after the cause of action accrues.

7 **SUMMARY**

8 The statute of limitations under current tort law for most civil suits is 6 years from
9 when the cause of action accrues except that for assault and battery and false imprisonment
10 it is 2 years, effectively depriving victims of domestic violence, among others, the same
11 opportunity that most other victims of torts have to seek redress for their damages. This
12 bill removes the actions of assault and battery and false imprisonment from provisions
13 setting a 2-year limitation period, making the actions subject to the general 6-year limitation
14 period that applies to most other torts.