

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 339

H.P. 213

House of Representatives, January 30, 2023

**An Act to Provide Electronic Access to Confidential Juror
Information**

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SHEEHAN of Biddeford.

1 **Emergency preamble.** **Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** the judicial branch has already purchased and implemented the technology
4 necessary to effectuate the electronic transfer of information as permitted by this
5 legislation; and

6 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
7 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
9 therefore,

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

11 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §1254-A, sub-§7,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 285, §1, is further
12 amended to read:

13 **7. Availability of qualification forms.** The names of prospective jurors and the
14 contents of juror qualification forms are confidential and may not be disclosed except as
15 provided in this chapter. The names of prospective jurors and the contents of juror
16 qualification forms may at the discretion of the court be made available to the attorneys
17 and their agents and investigators and the pro se parties at the courthouse for use in the
18 conduct of voir dire examination. The court may provide this information electronically on
19 request.

20 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
21 takes effect 30 days after approval.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill allows the court to electronically provide the names of prospective jurors and
24 the contents of juror qualification forms to authorized persons upon their request.