

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE NO. 115

House of Representatives, Feb. 10, 1915.

Ordered, That one thousand copies be printed and that the same be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Committee on Reference.

Presented by Mr. Thombs of Lincoln.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN

AN ACT to extend the jurisdiction of Masters in Chancery to
include the hearings upon Libels for Divorce.

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

Section 8 of chapter 62 of the revised statutes is hereby
2 amended by adding the following:

‘The court, in its discretion, may order any libel for divorce,
4 in respect to which a jury trial has not been requested or
5 ordered, to be referred to any master in chancery now or
6 hereafter appointed by a majority of the justices as pro-
7 vided by section 10 of chapter 79 of the revised statutes,
8 to ascertain and report the facts to the court with his con-
9 clusions thereon, and such masters shall have the power to

10 issue process to compel the attendance and examination of
11 parties and witnesses before them and the production of
12 books, papers, deeds and writings and generally shall have
13 all the powers of masters according to the practice in equity;'
14 so that said section as amended shall read:

'Sect. 8. If either party requests in writing filed with the
16 clerk on or before the return day of the libel, or the court
17 orders it, the case shall be submitted to a jury; and if they
18 find the allegations are true, and that a divorce ought to be
19 granted according to section 2, the court shall so decree.
20 The court, in its discretion, may order any libel for divorce,
21 in respect to which a jury trial has not been requested or
22 ordered, to be referred to any master in chancery now or
23 hereafter appointed by a majority of the justices as provided
24 by section 10 of chapter 79 of the revised statutes, to ascer-
25 tain and report the facts to the court with his conclusions
26 thereon, and such masters shall have the power to issue
27 process to compel the attendance and examination of parties
28 and witnesses before them and the production of books,
29 papers, deeds and writings and generally shall have all the
30 powers of masters according to the practice in equity.'