

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 459

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H. P. 968                      House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Tompkins of Houlton.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

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AN ACT Relating to Bar Examinations.

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

Section 26 of Chapter 93 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by inserting after the word "resident" in the first line thereof the words 'of this state', so that said section as amended shall read as follows :

'Sec. 26. Qualifications necessary to be admitted to practice law. R. S. c. 84, sec. 25. Every other person who shall be of full age, a resident of this state and a citizen of the United States and of a good moral character, may be admitted to practice as an attorney and counselor at law, and solicitor and counselor in chancery, in all the courts of record of this state on motion made in open court, but the applicant shall first produce the certificate hereinafter provided for from the board of examiners, that he possesses sufficient learning in the law, and moral character and ability to enable him to properly practice as an attorney and counselor at law and solicitor and counselor in chancery in the courts of this state. No person shall be entitled to practice as an attorney and counselor at law and solicitor and counselor in chancery in this state until he shall be licensed so to do by said courts. No person shall be denied admission or license to practice as an attorney at law on account of sex.

Section 28 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by inserting after the word "character" in the third line thereof the words 'and of having had a bona fide residence in this state for at least six months prior to the date of said examination', so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sec. 28. Qualification of applicants; mode of examination; grade of standing. R. S. c. 84, sec. 27. 1927, c. 23. Each applicant before taking examination for admission to the bar of this state, shall produce to said board of examiners satisfactory evidence of good moral character and of having had a bona fide residence in this state for at least six months prior to the date of said examination, and of having received a preliminary education equivalent to that required for graduation from the class A secondary schools of this state as recognized by the state commissioner of education. Such preliminary education may be proved by the production of a diploma from the secondary school attended (and, if said school is located without the state, evidence that its standards are equal to those of said class A secondary schools in this state), or from a school or college of educational standing higher than that of the said class A secondary schools, or from a law school approved by said board of examiners. In lieu of such diploma, such applicant may furnish a certificate that he has passed the examinations of the college entrance examination board with a sufficient rank to admit to Bates College, Bowdoin College, Colby College, or the University of Maine, or the entrance examinations of one of said institutions required of candidates for the degrees of A. B., or B. S. Any applicant may register with said board of examiners at any time by filing with said board a certificate stating his name, address, age, and the date on which the study of law is commenced and at the same time may submit to the board the proof of preliminary education, which proof shall be at once acted upon by the board and the result of such action communicated to the applicant. In addition to the foregoing requirements, each applicant shall produce to the said board satisfactory evidence of having pursued the study of law in the office of some attorney or in some law school approved by said board for at least three years prior to examination. When an applicant shall have satisfied said board that all the foregoing requirements have been fulfilled, said applicant shall

pay a fee to be fixed by said board of not more than twenty dollars, and shall then be required to submit to a written examination which shall be prepared by said board, also an oral examination by said board, if deemed necessary, and shall be required to answer correctly a minimum of seventy per cent of the questions asked to entitle said applicant to the certificate of qualification mentioned in section twenty-seven. The board shall, however, have power to establish such higher grades of standing as to them may seem proper.'