

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S I X T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1058

H. P. 970

House of Representatives, February 24, 1953

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Low of South Portland

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Residence Requirement for Divorce.

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

R. S., c. 153, § 55, amended. Section 55 of chapter 153 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 55. Causes for divorce; jurisdiction. A divorce from the bonds of matrimony may be decreed in the county where either party resides at the commencement of proceedings, for causes of adultery, impotence, extreme cruelty, utter desertion continued for 3 consecutive years next prior to the filing of the libel, gross and confirmed habits of intoxication from the use of intoxicating liquors, opium or other drugs, cruel and abusive treatment, or, on the libel of the wife, where the husband being of sufficient ability or being able to labor and provide for her, grossly or wantonly and cruelly refuses or neglects to provide suitable maintenance for her; provided that the parties were married in this state or cohabited here after marriage, or if the libellant resided here when the cause of divorce accrued, or had resided here in good faith for ~~year~~ **6 months** prior to the commencement of proceedings, or if the libelee is a resident of this state. When both parties have been guilty of adultery, or there is collusion between them to procure a

divorce, it shall not be granted. Either party may be a witness. The superior court, or any justice thereof in vacation, has jurisdiction of libels for divorce in all counties.'