

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE LAW LIBRARY

---

---

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

---

---

Legislative Document

No. 457

S. P. 178

In Senate, February 6, 1957.

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Woodcock of Penobscot.

---

---

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-SEVEN

---

**AN ACT Empowering the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine to Prescribe Rules.**

---

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

**R. S., c. 103, § 7-A, additional.** Chapter 103 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 7-A, to read as follows:

**'Sec. 7-A. Power to prescribe general rules.** The Supreme Judicial Court of Maine shall have the power to prescribe, by general rules, for the trial justices and for municipal and superior courts of Maine, the forms of process, writs, pleadings and motions, and the practice and procedure in civil actions at law. Said rules shall neither abridge, enlarge nor modify the substantive rights of any litigant. They shall take effect 6 months after their promulgation, and thereafter all laws in conflict therewith shall be of no further force or effect.

The Supreme Judicial Court of Maine may at any time write the general rules prescribed by it for cases in equity and those in actions at law so as to secure one form of civil action and procedure for both; provided, however, that in such union of rules the right of trial by jury as at common law and declared by the Constitution of the United States and amendments thereto and by the Constitution of the State of Maine and amendments thereto shall be preserved to the parties inviolate. Such united rules shall not take effect until 6 months after their promulgation and thereafter all laws and rules in conflict therewith shall be of no further force or effect.'