

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

AT THE

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

January 2, 1980 to April 3, 1980

AND AT THE

**THIRD SPECIAL SESSION**

May 22, 1980

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,  
TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

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K. J. Printing Co.  
Augusta, Maine

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tractors may petition the Secretary of State for a common expiration date of all vehicles in the fleet.

3. Number plates. Number plates or a suitable device in lieu thereof furnished for the next registration period for automobiles, motor trucks and truck tractors may be displayed on the first day of the month in which the current registration expires.

Effective July 3, 1980

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## CHAPTER 665

H. P. 1728 — L. D. 1847

### AN ACT to Declare the Right of the Public to Attend Certain Pretrial Criminal Proceedings.

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

15 MRSA § 457 is enacted to read:

#### § 457. Open pretrial criminal proceeding

1. Definition of pretrial proceeding. As used in this section, the term "pretrial proceeding" means an appearance before the court at which both parties are present and motions are heard, witnesses testify or evidence is presented, when the appearance occurs after the beginning of the initial appearance of the accused and before the swearing in of the jury or, in a jury waived trial, before the calling of the first witness.

2. Open proceedings. Except as provided by statute, the general public may not be excluded from a pretrial criminal proceeding at which the court hears a motion to exclude evidence from trial, unless the court finds a substantial likelihood that:

A. Injury or damage to the accused's right to a fair trial will result from conducting the proceeding in public;

B. Alternatives to closure will not protect the accused's right to a fair trial; and

C. Closure will protect against the perceived injury or damage.

3. Exceptions. Nothing in this section may be construed:

A. To limit the powers of courts to maintain decorum by ordering unruly

spectators removed from the courtroom, by reasonably limiting the number of spectators or by exercising similar powers of judges at common law; or

B. To require that a proceeding to determine the validity of a claim of evidentiary privilege as provided by the Maine Rules of Evidence be open to the public.

Effective July 3, 1980

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## CHAPTER 666

S. P. 779 — L. D. 1970

### AN ACT Providing for Administrative Modifications to Property Tax Laws Administered by the Bureau of Taxation.

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 209, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 30 MRSA § 1201, as last amended by PL 1979, c. 541, Pt. B, §§ 39-40, is amended to read:

#### § 1201. Fire Protection

The county commissioners of Aroostook County are authorized on behalf of the inhabitants of Connor and Silver Ridge Townships, of Township 8, R.4, Township 10, R.6, Township 14, R.6, Township 15, R.6, Township 16, R.4, Township 17, R.4 and Township 17, R.5, and the county commissioners of Franklin County are authorized, on behalf of Township 3, R.2, ~~BKPWKR (Jerusalem)~~, Township 4, R.2, ~~BKPWKR (Sugarloaf Township)~~ and the townships of Salem and Freeman, and the county commissioners of Hancock County are authorized, on behalf of the inhabitants of Township 8, S.D., and the unorganized coastal islands of that county, and the county commissioners of Knox County are authorized, on behalf of the inhabitants of the unorganized coastal islands of that county, and the county commissioners of Lincoln County are authorized, on behalf of the inhabitants of the unorganized coastal islands of that county, and the county commissioners of Oxford County are authorized on behalf of the inhabitants of Albany and Milton Townships, and the county commissioners of Penobscot County are authorized, on behalf of the inhabitants of Argyle and Kingman Townships and the county commissioners of Somerset County are authorized on behalf of the inhabitants of Rockwood Township, and the county commissioners of Waldo County are authorized on behalf of the inhabitants of the unorganized coastal islands of that county, and the county commissioners of Washington County are authorized on behalf of the inhabitants of the unorganized coastal islands of that county to enter into contracts on such terms as they deem fit with one or more persons,