

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD:

734

AN ACT TO ALLEVIATE THE EXCESS WORK IN THE COURT SYSTEM

PERKINS
LEBOWITZ
MCSWEENEY
ROLDE

LV-WD

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY: Sought to require a court, in any civil action (except one involving divorce, judicial separation, or workers' compensation) involving a monetary claim to award reasonable attorneys' fees against an attorney or party who has brought a civil action or defense that the court finds to have been substantially groundless.

LD:

735

AN ACT TO CLARIFY RECOVERABLE COSTS IN CIVIL ACTIONS

CARPENTER
STETSON
WARREN

OTP-AM

HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 384

S-223

CA

H

S

SUMMARY:

Clarifies and codifies in one place in the statutes the current practices regarding recovery of costs in civil actions currently governed by several archaic and unclear statutes and court rules.

LD:

748

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COURTROOM USE OF VIDEOTAPED TESTIMONY OF JUVENILES

NADEAU G G
ROLDE
CARPENTER
MARTIN J

LV-WD

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

Current law permits a child under 14 years of age who has been the alleged victim of sexual abuse to testify outside of the courtroom in a criminal case concerning that abuse if the judge in the case finds that the emotional or psychological well-being of the child will in fact be substantially impaired if the child were to testify in court. This bill sought to lessen the high standard of certainty that impairment of the child will occur before out of court testimony may be ordered to the more realistic standard of a risk of impairment. Similar provisions are included in LD 1386.