

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:

1331

AN ACT CONCERNING PLEAS OF INSANITY

STEVENS A
BERUBE
COTE

LU-WD

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

Sought to establish the verdict of guilty, but suffering from mental disease or defect in the case of murder or felony murder. A person found guilty, but suffering from mental disease or defect would have been sentenced and would also have been committed to an institution for the mentally ill or retarded. If the person's commitment was terminated before his sentence had run, he would have been returned to a correctional facility to serve out the remainder of his sentence. Similar to LDs 278 and 1035.

LD:

1334

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD WITNESS LAW

CARPENTER

LU-WD

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

Sought to expand the child witness law of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 15, section 1205. Current law permits the use of out-of-court statements by certain minors concerning sexual abuse in criminal trials relating to the abuse. This sought to permit the use of out-of-court statements of certain minors, in all criminal cases. It also sought to lower the standard for a court to use in determining whether a minor may be permitted to testify out-of-court.

LD:

1335

AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CRIMINAL
EMERGENCY HOMICIDE IN THE MAINE CRIMINAL CODE

CARPENTER

OTP

HOUSE Emerg. Enacted
SENATE Emerg. Enacted
GOV EMER SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 416

SUMMARY:

In 1983, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 201, subsection 1-A, which concerns murder committed with depraved indifference to the value of human life, was repealed and replaced. This repeals and replaces the subsection again, adding language to clarify problems of interpretation of the "depraved indifference murder" law that have arisen in trials since 1983.