

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 339

H.P. 213

House of Representatives, January 30, 2023

An Act to Provide Electronic Access to Confidential Juror Information

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 204. Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SHEEHAN of Biddeford.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and 3 Whereas, the judicial branch has already purchased and implemented the technology 4 necessary to effectuate the electronic transfer of information as permitted by this 5 legislation; and 6 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as 7 8 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, 9 therefore. 10 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 11 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §1254-A, sub-§7,** as amended by PL 2005, c. 285, §1, is further 12 amended to read: 13 7. Availability of qualification forms. The names of prospective jurors and the 14 contents of juror qualification forms are confidential and may not be disclosed except as provided in this chapter. The names of prospective jurors and the contents of juror 15 16 qualification forms may at the discretion of the court be made available to the attorneys and their agents and investigators and the pro se parties at the courthouse for use in the 17 conduct of voir dire examination. The court may provide this information electronically on 18 19 request. 20 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation 21 takes effect 30 days after approval. 22 **SUMMARY** 23 This bill allows the court to electronically provide the names of prospective jurors and 24

the contents of juror qualification forms to authorized persons upon their request.