



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

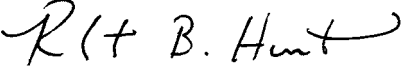
No. 1335

H.P. 870

House of Representatives, March 27, 2025

An Act to Prohibit Life Sentences

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Representatives: MATHIESON of Kittery, WARREN of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §1202** is amended to read:

3 **§1202. Postponement or continuance**

4 The trial of any criminal case, except for a trial for a crime punishable by imprisonment
5 for life prior to January 1, 2026, may be postponed by the court to a future day of the same
6 term, or the jury may be discharged therefrom and the case continued, if justice will thereby
7 be promoted.

8 **Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §152-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §58,
9 is further amended to read:

10 **2.** Aggravated attempted murder is a Class A crime, except that, notwithstanding
11 section 1604, subsection 1, paragraph A, ~~the sentence for a person convicted of~~ aggravated
12 attempted murder is prior to January 1, 2026 must be sentenced by the court to
13 imprisonment for life or for a definite period of imprisonment for any term of years; and a
14 person convicted of aggravated attempted murder on or after January 1, 2026 may not be
15 sentenced by the court to imprisonment for life or for any term of years equivalent to
16 imprisonment for life, and the court shall set a term of imprisonment for a definite period
17 of any term of years. ~~The~~ In the case of a person convicted of aggravated attempted murder
18 prior to January 1, 2026, existence of an aggravating circumstance serves only as a
19 precondition for the court to consider a life sentence.

20 As used in this subsection, "term of years equivalent to imprisonment for life" has the same
21 meaning as in section 1604, subsection 9.

22 **Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §1603, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is
23 amended to read:

24 **1. Sentence.** A person convicted of the crime of murder prior to January 1, 2026 must
25 be sentenced to imprisonment for life or for any term of years that is not less than 25 years.
26 A person convicted of the crime of murder on or after January 1, 2026 may not be sentenced
27 by the court to imprisonment for life or for any term of years equivalent to imprisonment
28 for life, and the court shall set a term of imprisonment for any term of years that is not less
29 than 25 years. The sentence of the court must specify the length of the sentence to be
30 served and must commit the person to the Department of Corrections.

31 As used in this subsection, "term of years equivalent to imprisonment for life" has the same
32 meaning as in section 1604, subsection 9.

33 **Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §1604, sub-§2, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2,
34 is amended to read:

35 A. In the case of a person convicted of the Class A crime of aggravated attempted
36 murder prior to January 1, 2026, the court shall set a term of imprisonment under
37 section 152-A, subsection 2 ~~of~~ for life or for a definite period of any term of years. In
38 the case of a person convicted of the Class A crime of aggravated attempted murder on
39 or after January 1, 2026, the court may not sentence the person to imprisonment for life
40 or for any term of years equivalent to imprisonment for life, and the court shall set a
41 term of imprisonment under section 152-A, subsection 2 for a definite period of any
42 term of years;

