**An Act To Ensure That Victims of Assault, Battery and False Imprisonment, Including Victims of Domestic Violence, Have Parity under Tort Law**

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

**Sec.** **1. 14 MRSA §753,** as amended by PL 1985, c. 804, §§1 and 22, is further amended to read:

**§****753.** **Two years**

Actions for ~~assault and battery, and for false imprisonment,~~ slander and libel ~~shall~~ must be commenced within 2 years after the cause of action accrues.

**SUMMARY**

The statute of limitations under current tort law for most civil suits is 6 years from when the cause of action accrues except that for assault and battery and false imprisonment it is 2 years, effectively depriving victims of domestic violence, among others, the same opportunity that most other victims of torts have to seek redress for their damages. This bill removes the actions of assault and battery and false imprisonment from provisions setting a 2-year limitation period, making the actions subject to the general 6-year limitation period that applies to most other torts.