



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 181

H.P. 139

House of Representatives, January 27, 2015

An Act To Create Efficiencies in Court Process

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Senator BURNS of Washington and
Representatives: FREDETTE of Newport, MOONEN of Portland, SHERMAN of Hodgdon,
Senators: KATZ of Kennebec, VALENTINO of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1, 3rd ¶**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 213, Pt. QQ, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 The Supreme Judicial Court has general administrative and supervisory authority
5 over the judicial branch and shall make and promulgate rules, regulations and orders
6 governing the administration of the judicial branch. Notwithstanding any other provision
7 of law, the Supreme Judicial Court may adopt rules or issue orders to permit or require
8 the use of electronic or digital forms, filings, records, e-mail and electronic signatures
9 whenever paper forms, filings, records, written notice, postal mail and written signatures
10 are required for judicial, legal, law enforcement or any other court processes under the
11 Maine Revised Statutes.

12 **Sec. 2. Notification to Legislature.** The Supreme Judicial Court shall notify the
13 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters of
14 any rules adopted or orders issued pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section
15 1 to permit or require the use of electronic or digital forms, filings, records, e-mail and
16 electronic signatures whenever paper forms, filings, records, written notice, postal mail
17 and written signatures are required for judicial, legal, law enforcement or any other court
18 processes and recommend to the committee by February 15, 2017 any changes in law
19 necessary to implement or promote the electronic case management and filing system
20 implemented by the judicial branch.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill authorizes the Supreme Judicial Court to adopt any rules or issue any orders
23 necessary to implement its electronic case management and filing system. The bill
24 requires the court to notify the Legislature of any such rules or orders and to recommend
25 any changes in law needed to implement or promote the system.