

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN

—
H.P. 427 - L.D. 611

An Act To Amend Certain Laws Affecting the Judicial Branch

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §55, as amended by PL 1983, c. 164, is further amended to read:

§55. Preservation of briefs

The clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court shall preserve 2 complete sets of briefs ~~filed~~ in all cases decided in the Supreme Judicial Court sitting as the Law Court. ~~Under the direction of the Chief Justice these briefs shall be arranged in order. One set each shall thereupon be delivered to the law libraries respectively of Cumberland and Penobscot Counties for preservation and reference~~ The clerk shall provide complete sets of the briefs to the law library of Cumberland County and to the Law and Legislative Reference Library, either by delivering a physical set to each library or by delivering or providing access to an electronic copy of the briefs. All expenses incurred in preparation and delivery of these briefs ~~shall~~ must be paid by the State from the appropriation for expenses of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §48-A, sub-§1, ¶M, as amended by PL 2009, c. 174, §1, is further amended to read:

M. "Qualified legal interpreter" means a person who is licensed under Title 32, chapter 22 as a certified interpreter, certified deaf interpreter or certified transliterator and who:

(1) Is a hearing person who:

(a) Holds a current Specialist Certificate: Legal from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. or its successor;

(b) Satisfies the eligibility criteria for taking the exam for the specialist certificate described in division (a) as long as, by January 1, 2012, that person obtains the specialist certificate described in division (a); ~~or~~

(c) Is included on the bureau's list of qualified interpreters on the effective date of this section, as long as that person, by January 1, 2006, meets the

eligibility criteria for taking the exam for the specialist certificate described in division (a) and, by January 1, 2012, obtains the specialist certificate described in division (a); or

(d) Possesses qualifications, certifications or credentials to interpret in court proceedings as established by the Supreme Judicial Court; or

(2) Is a deaf interpreter who holds a current Certificate of Interpretation from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. or its successor or a Reverse Skills Certificate from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. or its successor. Beginning January 1, 2006, a deaf person, hard-of-hearing person or late-deafened person must also satisfy the eligibility criteria for taking the exam for the Specialist Certificate: Legal or its successor.

Sec. 3. 14 MRSA §1202-A, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 705, Pt. G, §2, is amended to read:

§1202-A. Prohibition of discrimination

A citizen shall not be excluded from jury service in this State on account of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation as defined in Title 5, section 4553, subsection 9-C, national origin, ancestry, economic status, marital status, age or physical handicap, except as provided in this chapter.

Sec. 4. 18-A MRSA §5-205, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 540, §1, is amended to read:

§5-205. Court appointment of guardian of minor; venue

The venue for guardianship proceedings for a minor is in the ~~place~~ county or division where the minor resides or is present, where the petitioner or a parent or guardian of the child resides or where another proceeding concerning custody or other parental rights with respect to the child is pending.

Sec. 5. 18-A MRSA §9-104, as amended by PL 1997, c. 239, §1 and affected by §6, is further amended to read:

§9-104. Venue; transfer

(a). If the adoptee is placed by a licensed child-placing agency or the department, the petition for adoption must be filed in the court in the county or division where:

- (1). The petitioner resides;
- (2). The adoptee resides or was born; ~~or~~
- (3). An office of the agency that placed the adoptee for adoption is located; or
- (4). The parental rights of the minor adoptee's parents were terminated.

(b). If the adoptee is not placed by a licensed child-placing agency or the department, the petition for adoption must be filed in the county or division where the adoptee resides or where the petitioners reside.

(c). If, in the interests of justice or for the convenience of the parties, the court finds that the matter should be heard in another ~~probate~~ court, the court may transfer, stay or dismiss the proceeding, subject to any further conditions imposed by the court.