



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 869

S.P. 294

In Senate, March 5, 2013

An Act To Relax Divorce Requirements for Victims of Domestic Violence

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LACHOWICZ of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative CHIPMAN of Portland and
Senators: CRAVEN of Androscoggin, GRATWICK of Penobscot, MILLETT of Cumberland,
Representative: HICKMAN of Winthrop.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §901, sub-§1, ¶¶C and D**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694,
3 Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, are amended to read:

4 C. The plaintiff is a resident of this State and the parties resided in this State when
5 the cause of divorce accrued; ~~or~~

6 D. The defendant is a resident of this State; or

7 **Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §901, sub-§1, ¶E** is enacted to read:

8 E. The plaintiff is a resident of this State and has resided in this State for any period
9 of time prior to the commencement of the action and produces an operating
10 protection from abuse order under chapter 101 or its equivalent from another
11 jurisdiction and the plaintiff's spouse is the defendant subject to the order.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill allows a person to file for divorce without meeting the 6-month residency
14 requirement if the person resides in the State and produces an operating protection from
15 abuse order or its equivalent from another jurisdiction and the person's spouse is the
16 defendant subject to the order.