

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

S.P. 189 - L.D. 483

An Act To Clarify Funding for Civil Legal Services

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§3-A, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 509, §3, is amended to read:

C. A surcharge of \$127 must be imposed by a court on the fee for commencement of each debt collection action for small claims or money judgment disclosure action when the action is brought by a person who is a debt buyer, as defined by Title 32, section 11002, subsection 5-A, or a debt collector within the meaning of, as defined by Title 32, section 11002, subsection 6, and the. The surcharge must be deposited in the fund and is not a recoverable cost under Title 14, section 1502-B.

Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §18-B, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. I, §3, is amended to read:

7. Fees Authority and fees. ~~When~~ The Judicial Department is authorized to refer cases to the Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Service for mediation and, when a court refers parties to the Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Service for mediation, the court shall assess the parties a fee to be apportioned equally among the parties, unless the court otherwise directs. The fee must be deposited in the dedicated account created in subsection 8.

A party may file an in forma pauperis application for waiver of fee. If the court finds that the party does not have sufficient funds to pay the fee, it shall order the fee waived.