

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
H.P. 502 - L.D. 690

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

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the statute of limitations for most tort causes of action is 6 years; and

Whereas, the statute of limitations for assault and battery and false imprisonment is only 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; and

Whereas, changing the statute of limitations for assault and battery and false imprisonment as soon as possible will allow those whose claims would otherwise be foreclosed while waiting for this Act to be effective an opportunity to seek redress;

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.