



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 233

H.P. 163

House of Representatives, January 27, 2021

An Act To Provide Electronic Access to Confidential Juror Information

Received by the Clerk of the House on January 25, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HARNETT of Gardiner.
Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox and
Representatives: EVANGELOS of Friendship, MORALES of South Portland, WARREN of
Hallowell, Senator: BAILEY of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §1254-A, sub-§7**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 285, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **7. Availability of qualification forms.** The names of prospective jurors and the
5 contents of juror qualification forms are confidential and may not be disclosed except as
6 provided in this chapter. The names of prospective jurors and the contents of juror
7 qualification forms ~~may at the discretion of the court~~ must be made available to the
8 attorneys and their agents and investigators and the pro se parties at the courthouse for use
9 in the conduct of voir dire examination. The court shall also provide this information
10 electronically to the attorneys and their agents and investigators and the pro se parties at
11 their request.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 Current law authorizes a court to provide certain individuals access to confidential juror
14 questionnaires, and the law allows such discretionary access to these questionnaires only
15 at the courthouse itself. This bill eliminates the court's discretion and requires the court to
16 provide access to these questionnaires at the courthouse. The bill also requires the court to
17 electronically provide these questionnaires to authorized persons upon their request. The
18 bill does not affect the confidentiality of such questionnaires and does not affect the
19 receivers' obligation to maintain this confidentiality.