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## **An Act To Change the Definition of "Domestic Partner" in the Laws Governing Custody of Remains**

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2843-A, sub-§1, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 672, §19, is further amended to read:

D. "Next of kin" means a person having the following relationship to the subject, in the following order of priority:

(1) The spouse;

(1-A) A domestic partner. For purposes of this section, "domestic partner" means ~~one of 2 unmarried adults who are domiciled together under long-term arrangements that evidence a commitment to remain responsible indefinitely for each other's welfare;~~the partner of the subject who:

(a) Is a mentally competent adult;

(b) Had been legally domiciled with the subject for at least 12 months immediately preceding the death of the subject;

(c) Is not legally married to or legally separated from another individual;

(d) Was the sole partner of the subject; and

(e) Was jointly responsible with the subject for each other's common welfare as evidenced by joint living arrangements, joint financial arrangements or joint ownership of real or personal property;

(2) An adult son or daughter;

(3) A parent;

(4) An adult brother or sister;

- (5) An adult grandchild;
- (6) An adult niece or nephew who is the child of a brother or sister;
- (7) A maternal grandparent;
- (8) A paternal grandparent;
- (9) An adult aunt or uncle;
- (10) An adult first cousin; or
- (11) Any other adult relative in descending order of blood relationship.

Effective September 12, 2009