

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act Concerning Dispute Resolution in Home Construction Contracts

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1487, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 574, is amended to read:

8. Resolution of disputes. A statement allowing the parties the option to adopt one of 3 methods of resolving contract disputes in addition to the option of a small claims action. At a minimum, this statement must provide the following information:

"If a dispute arises concerning the provisions of this contract or the performance by the parties that may not be resolved through a small claims action, then the parties agree to settle this dispute by jointly paying for one of the following (check only one):

- (1) Binding arbitration as ~~regulated by~~ under the Maine Uniform Arbitration Act, ~~with in which~~ the parties ~~agreeing~~ agree to accept as final the arbitrator's decision ();
- (2) Nonbinding arbitration, with the parties free to ~~not accept~~ reject the arbitrator's decision and to seek ~~satisfaction~~ a solution through other means, including a lawsuit (); or
- (3) Mediation, ~~with in which~~ the parties ~~agreeing to enter into good faith negotiations~~ negotiate through a neutral mediator in ~~order to attempt~~ an effort to resolve their differences in advance of filing a lawsuit ()";

Effective September 12, 2009