

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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Legislative Document

No. 1448

S.P. 534

In Senate, April 7, 2009

### **An Act To Exempt Volunteer Lobbyists from State Disclosure Requirements**

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Reported by Senator SULLIVAN of York for the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 1009.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed under Joint Rule 218.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

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

2 **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §312-A, sub-§10**, as repealed and replaced by PL 1993, c. 691,  
3 §5, is amended to read:

4 **10. Lobbyist.** "Lobbyist" means any person who is specifically employed by  
5 another person for the purpose of and who engages in lobbying in excess of 8 hours in  
6 any calendar month, or any individual who, as a regular employee of another person,  
7 expends an amount of time in excess of 8 hours in any calendar month in lobbying.  
8 "Lobbyist" does not include a lobbyist associate. "Lobbyist" does not include an  
9 individual who receives no compensation for lobbying other than reimbursement for  
10 lobbying-related travel within the State.

11 **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §317, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 630, §15, is further  
12 amended to read:

13 **2. Annual report.** Thirty days following the end of the year in which any person  
14 lobbied pursuant to section 313, the lobbyist and the lobbyist's employer shall file with  
15 the commission a joint report that must contain the information required in subsection 1  
16 for all lobbying activities for the year.

17 The information in the reports required by subsection 1 must be signed approved by the  
18 lobbyist or by a person designated by the lobbyist in section 316, subsection 1. The  
19 information in the reports required by this subsection must be signed approved by both  
20 the lobbyist or the designated person and the employer.

21 If the date any report required by this section is due falls on a day other than a regular  
22 business day, the report is due on the first regular business day next following the due  
23 date.

24 In addition to the amounts identified in subsection 1 as compensation received or  
25 expenditure made for the primary purpose of lobbying, this annual report must include  
26 the total amount of compensation received by the lobbyist or the lobbying firm, or  
27 expended by the employer, except compensation received or expended for purposes not  
28 related to lobbying.

## 29 SUMMARY

30 The bill exempts from the definition of "lobbyist" individuals who received no  
31 compensation for lobbying other than reimbursement for travel within this State.  
32 Organizations providing such reimbursement would not need to register these individuals  
33 as lobbyists with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. The  
34 bill also eliminates the requirement that annual reports filed by lobbyists be signed by  
35 their clients, since those reports are primarily filed electronically on the commission's  
36 publicly accessible website.