

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - F O U R T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1183

S. P. 559

In Senate, March 2, 1949.

Reported by Senator Barnes of Aroostook from Committee on Judiciary and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Establish and Define the Civil Liability of Radio Broadcasters
Relative to Libel.**

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

R. S., c. 117, § 31-A, additional. Chapter 117 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 31-A and to read as follows:

'Sec. 31-A. Responsibility for libels by radio. A person shall be responsible for any libel published or uttered in or as a part of a visual or sound radio broadcast, unless he proves on trial that it was broadcast and published without his knowledge, consent or suspicion, and that by reasonable care and diligence he could not have prevented it.

In no event, however, shall any person be held liable for any damages for any defamatory statement uttered by another over the facilities of a visual or sound radio station or network by or on behalf of any candidate for public office, or in discussion of any matter referred to referendum, if such person shall have no power of censorship over the material broadcast.'