

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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March 22, 1948

To Ober C. Vaughan, Director, Personnel  
Re: Interpretation of Section 20 of Chapter 59, R. S. 1944

I received your memo of March 17th, stating that the Personnel Board had requested you to ask for an interpretation of Section 20 of Chapter 59 of the Revised Statutes, relating to solicitation of political campaign contributions, which is prohibited by said statute. You ask two questions:

Question #1. Does this statute relate to campaigning for public office?

My answer to Question 1 is that in my opinion it does not relate to campaigning for public office for the employee himself; but it would relate to campaigning for another person for public office, as it would be a political service for the candidate for office for anyone in the classified service to campaign. However, I feel that it is against public policy for a man or woman in the classified service to be a candidate for public office in the State of Maine while remaining in said classified service. The soliciting or receiving of any assessment, subscription, contribution or political service relates to another person and not to the employee in the classified service himself.

Question #2. Does it relate to service in the legislature?

My answer to this question is in the negative. I do not believe that the statute is broad enough to cover service in the legislature by an employee in the classified service, for the reason stated in the answer to Question.

Ralph W. Farris  
Attorney General

RWF:c