

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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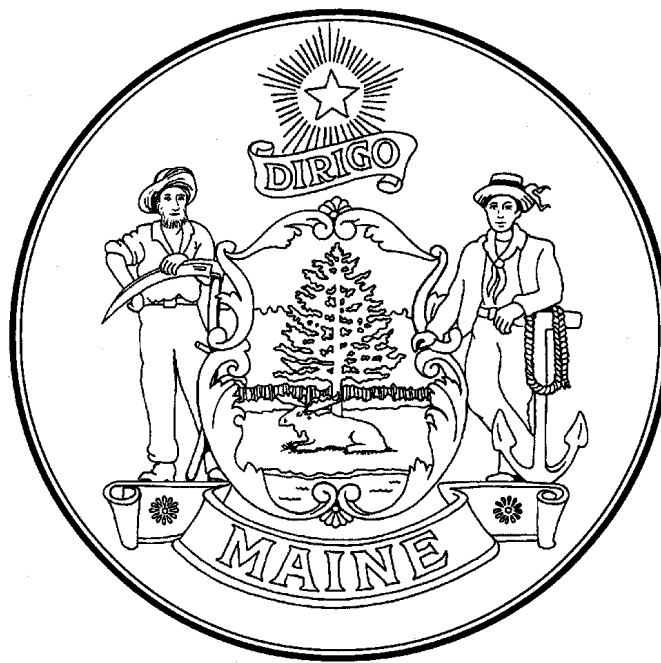


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WCB

March 8, 1962

Mrs. Minnie Knapp
Pineland Hospital and Training Center
Pownal, Maine

Dear Mrs. Knapp:

Since talking with you relative to your candidacy for the House of Representatives I have gone over the whole situation with the Attorney General.

As has been pointed out previously, the Constitution of the State prohibits a person from holding positions in two branches of State Government at the same time. This was the basis on which I advised you that, if elected to the House of Representatives, you must resign your position before being seated in the House.

It is the opinion of this office that chapter 63, section 25 of the Revised Statutes further prohibits a person in the classified service from being a candidate for public office in a partisan election.

I have been asked to advise you of this opinion so that you may make a decision as to whether you wish to remain in your present position or be a candidate for the House.

I realize the latter part of this letter is contrary to my verbal statement to you last week. Since that time the matter has been thoroughly discussed with the Attorney General and I am conveying his opinion to you.

Very truly yours,

George C. West
Deputy Attorney General

GCW:H
cc: Peter Bowman, M.D.
cc: Perry Hayden, Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS

STATE OF MAINE

AUGUSTA, MAINE

*M.H. & C.
Personnel File*

March 30, 1962

Mrs. Minnie E. G. Knapp -
3 South St.,
Yarmouth, Maine

Dear Mrs. Knapp:

This letter is to confirm what I tried to explain to you by telephone this evening. If you choose to run for the Legislature you should resign from your position as a classified State employee at the Pineland Hospital and Training Center effective the date you file your papers as a candidate.

If you file and choose not to resign your position I will tell Dr. Bowman to advise you, on the proper Personnel form, of your dismissal as a State employee. The reason for this action, if necessary, stems from my belief that in running for the Legislature as a State employee you violate the Personnel Law as interpreted by the Attorney General Ruling of January 23, 1962. I enclose a copy of this ruling and also refer you to the letter of March 8, 1962 to you from Mr. George C. West, Deputy Attorney General on the same subject.

You understand, of course, that this action, if necessary, in no way reflects upon your ability as a highly skilled employee at Pineland. Your devotion to your work and your efforts to establish the Departmental Drug Committee, of which you have been an active member, are well known and appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Commissioner

*F.C. DeBowman
Chas. Vaughan
Attorney General ✓*

APR 1962
