

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1278**

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H. P. 874

House of Representatives, March 2, 1971

Speaker laid before the House and on motion of Mr. Martin of Eagle Lake, referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Carrier of Westbrook.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Prohibiting the Expenditure of Public Funds to Promote or Oppose  
Measures to Be Voted on at Elections.**

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

**R. S., T. 17, § 3105, additional.** Title 17 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 3105, to read as follows:

**§ 3105. Public funds; for or against measures to be voted on at referendum**

No employee or department head of the State or any political subdivision or instrumentality thereof shall expend or authorize the use of public funds appropriated to his agency to influence the outcome of any referendum, except that such employee or department head may comment on the effect of the adoption or rejection of the question involved in the referendum. This section shall not apply to any such official or employee acting under Title 30, chapter 242.

Any person who shall violate this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment for not more than 11 months, or by both. The fine imposed shall inure to the governmental entity whose funds were so used or expended.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the spending of public funds to defeat or promote a referendum question.