

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 99

S. P. 43

In Senate, January 9, 1973

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Shute of Franklin.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Creating the Free Flow of Information Act.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 1, c. 14, additional. Title 1 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 14 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 14

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT

§ 511. Free flow of information

No person shall be required to disclose to any proceeding, either

1. Source. The source of any published or unpublished news or other information obtained in the gathering, receiving or processing of news for dissemination through any medium of communication to the public, or

2. — other information. Any unpublished news or other information obtained in the gathering, receiving or processing of news for dissemination through any medium of communication to the public.

§ 512. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words shall have the following meanings.

1. Medium of communication. "Medium of communication" includes, but is not limited to, any newspaper, magazine or other periodical, book, pamphlet, news service, wire service, news syndicate, broadcast news service,

cablecast news service, broadcast station or network or cable television system.

2. Proceeding. "Proceeding" includes any proceeding or investigation before or by any state judicial, legislative or administrative body.

3. News or other information. "News or other information" includes any written, oral or pictorial news or other information or material.

4. Published news or other information. "Published news or other information" includes any information disseminated through a medium of communication to the public.

5. Unpublished news or other information. "Unpublished news or other information" includes information not disseminated through any medium of communication to the public, whether or not related information has been so disseminated.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to protect freedom of speech and to permit news gathering media to have a direct line of communication to the public and to protect the media's sources of information.