

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1475

H. P. 1140

House of Representatives, March 13, 1973

Referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Ross of Bath.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

**AN ACT to Make the Maine Human Rights Act Substantially
Equivalent to Federal Statutes.**

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 5, § 4553, sub-§ 6, ¶ C, repealed and replaced. Paragraph C of subsection 6 of section 4553 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 501 of the public laws of 1971, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

C. The rental of any dwelling owned, controlled or operated for other than a commercial purpose, by a religious or fraternal corporation to its membership unless such membership is restricted on account of race, color or national origin.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 5, § 4612, sub-§ 1, amended. Subsection 1 of section 4612 of Title 5 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 501 of the public laws of 1971, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read as follows:

In connection with any investigation of a complaint filed under this Act, the commission or its designated representative shall at all reasonable times have access to, for the purposes of examination, and the right to copy any evidence of any person being investigated or proceeded against that relates to unlawful discrimination covered by this Act.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Regional Counsel's Office for the Department of Housing and Urban Development has reviewed the Maine Act and concluded that it does not

provide rights and remedies for discriminatory practices which are substantially equivalent to federal law. The purpose of this bill is to correct those deficiencies between the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968, as amended, thereby enabling the Maine Human Rights Commission to take advantage of federal funding, training and data sharing.