

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1434

H. P. 1093

House of Representatives, March 25, 1975

On Motion of Mr. Pelosi of Portland, Reference Reconsidered and on further motion of same gentleman, referred to the Committee on State Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Pelosi of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Redefine the Political Activity Rights of Classified Employees
of the State.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA § 679 is repealed.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA § 679-A is enacted to read:

§ 679-A. Political activity

1. Use of official authority. No officer or employee in the classified service of this State shall use his official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or a nomination for office.

2. Coercion of contributions. No officer or employee in the classified service of this State shall directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command or advise a state officer or employee to pay, lend or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency or person for political purposes.

3. Candidacy for elective office. No officer or employee in the classified service of this State shall be a candidate for elective office in a partisan public election. This subsection shall not be construed as to prohibit any such officer or employee of the State from being a candidate in any election if none of the candidates is to be nominated or elected at that election as representing a party any of whose candidates for presidential elector received votes in the last preceding election at which presidential electors were selected.

4. **Right of voting and free expression.** An officer or employee in the classified service of this State shall retain the right to vote as he chooses and to express his opinions on political subjects and candidates.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Section 401 of the Federal Election Campaign Act Amendments of 1974 amends Title 5, United States Code, Sections 1501 to 1508, by removing the restriction against certain political activities engaged in by public employees in federally-aided programs. Under the new law, effective January 1, 1975, such employees are no longer prohibited from taking an active part in political management and campaigns. It is the intent of this bill to ensure similar and equitable treatment for all officers and employees in the classified service of the State.