

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

New Draft of: H. P. 1809, L. D. 1968
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2323

H. P. 2249

House of Representatives, March 25, 1976

Reported by Seven Members from Committee on Public Utilities in Report
"A". Printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

**AN ACT to Prohibit Public Utilities from Including Certain Political
Advertising Material along with Customer Bills.**

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

35 MRSA § 106 is enacted to read:

§ 106. Limitations on political activity

1. Inserts in customer bills. No public utility shall include with any bill for services or commodities furnished any customer or subscriber any advertising or literature designed or intended to promote the passage or defeat of a measure appearing on the ballot at any election whether local, state-wide or national, to promote or defeat any candidate for nomination or election to any public office, to promote or defeat the appointment of any person to any administrative or executive position in local, county, State or Federal Government or to promote, modify or defeat any change in local, state or federal legislation, rules or regulations.

2. Political contributions. No utility shall make any contribution of money or services to any political party or to any candidate for state, county or municipal elective office or to any fund-raising organization or event which makes such contributions.

3. Cost of referendum activities. The cost of any expenditure of money or donation of services expended or donated in order to influence or promote the passage or defeat of a measure appearing on the ballot at any local, state or national election shall not be charged, either directly or indirectly, as an expense to the rate payers of the utility.

4. **Enforcement.** Any person who causes the transactions herein prohibited to take place shall be personally liable for a civil penalty, which may be recovered in like amount and in the like fashion as civil penalties may be recovered against utilities pursuant to chapters 1 - 17.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill prohibits any public utility from including along with customer bills any material which promotes or opposes certain measures voted on in local, state or national elections, which promotes or opposes any candidate for public office, which promotes or opposes the appointment of any administrative or executive official or which promotes or opposes any change in local, state or federal legislation, rules or regulations.

This bill also prohibits any public utility from making political contributions.

This bill also excludes the cost of any expenditures to influence a referendum issue from expenses that may be charged against the rate payers.

This bill also makes any person who violates these provisions personally liable for the civil penalty.