

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 886

H. P. 749

House of Representatives, February 17, 1981

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Kilcoyne of Gardiner.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT to Require all Editorials Printed in Maine Newspapers to Include the Name of the Person who Wrote the Article.

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

1 MRSA c. 13-A is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 13-A

**RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION
PROVIDED IN NEWSPAPERS**

§ 531. Name of editorial author to be published

In order to insure that members of the public have an opportunity to respond to editorials in newspapers published in this State, any newspaper published in this State which prints an editorial article shall include with the article the name of the person who wrote the article.

A violation of this section is a civil violation for which a forfeiture not to exceed \$100 may be adjudged.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require newspaper editorials which are published in Maine papers to include the name of the person who wrote the editorial. This will enable members of the public to answer directly any statements or opinions set out in the article.