

1	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
3 4	ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
5 6	Legislative Document No. 173
7 8 9	S.P. 67 In Senate, January 12, 1983 Reference to the Committee on State Government. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.
10	JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate Presented by Senator Clark of Cumberland. Cosponsors: Representative Tuttle of Sanford, Representative Nadeau of
11	Lewiston and Representative Masterman of Milo.
12 13	STATE OF MAINE
14 15 16	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
17 18 19	AN ACT Granting State Employees Full Political Rights.
20 21	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
· 22 23	Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §14, 3rd ¶, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 597, is amended to read:
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33	Any officer or employee of the classified service of this State may make contributions to a political party, organization or candidate but shall not solicit any assessment, subscription or contribution from any person for any political purpose in connec- tion with any election for federal, state or county office during that officer's or employee's state working hours upon the property or premises of the State or by using the facilities or services of the State.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §679-A, sub-§3, as enacted by PL
1975, c. 309, §2, is repealed.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

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4 1 clarifies the right of state employees Section 5 to fully participate in political activities, except 6 as restricted by the statutes, during their nonworking hours and off state property 7 and without 8 use of state facilities. The state's so-called "Little Hatch Act," Title 5, section 679-A, 9 was 10 revised by the 107th Legislature to permit classified 11 employees of the State broader participation in 12 political activities, except the use of official 13 influence, the coercion of contributions from other 14 state employees and candidacy in partisan public 15 elections.

16 The 107th Legislature also enacted Title 21, 17 section 1579, subsection 29, prohibiting state 18 employees from receiving or soliciting political con-19 tributions from anyone the employees deal with in the 20 performance of their jobs. Title 5, section 14, was 21 also enacted to ensure to state employees the right 22 participate in nonpartisan municipal affairs, to 23 except where there exists a conflict of interest.

Section 2 permits classified state employees to run for political offices through partisan elections. Presently, classified state employees may run for political office if the election is nonpartisan. As a result, state employees may run and hold office in certain towns and cities but not in others.

30 This bill removes the discriminatory effect of 31 living in certain towns and cities. It also permits 32 state employees to run for county offices and for the 33 Legislature without first giving up their jobs.

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