MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1	(After Deadline)
2 3	FIRST REGULAR SESSION
4 5	ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
6 7	Legislative Document No. 1615
8 9 10	H.P. 1212 House of Representatives, May 13, 1983 Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 27. Referred to the Committee on Election Laws. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.
2.2	EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
12 13 14	STATE OF MAINE
15 16 17	IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THREE
18 19 20	AN ACT Concerning Control of the Content of Rebuttals to Media Editorials.
21 22	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
23	17 MRSA c. 133 is enacted to read:
24	CHAPTER 133
25	TELECOMMUNICATIONS
26	§5001. Censorships by broadcasting stations
27 28 29 30 31 32	When any broadcasting station broadcasts editorial remarks, opinions or statements, the station shall make time available for the presentation of conflicting viewpoints. A presentation of a conflicting viewpoint shall be presumed to be a rebuttal to the original editorial remark, opinion or statement.

The station may not control the content of material in any such rebuttal, except that the station may reasonably limit the length of time available for rebuttal, and may prohibit the use of any obscene, slanderous or libelous statements.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require that a broadcasting station afford rebuttal time in response to any editorial which the station has broadcast. This bill also makes clear that the station may not censor the content of the rebuttal, except that the station will be able to place a time limit on the length of the rebuttal, and the station may prohibit the use of obscene, slanderous or libelous statements.

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