MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1079

S.P. 413

In Senate, April 6, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Taxation suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PEARSON of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator WHITMORE of Androscoggin, Senator CLARK of Cumberland and Representative CASHMAN of Old Town.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Exempt from the Maine Sales Tax Purchases of Goods and Services by Scouting Organizations.

(EMERGENCY)



1	Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
3	as emergencies; and
5 ·	Whereas, the youth of this State are one of its most valuable assets; and
7	Whereas, the Pine Tree Council Boy Scouts of America, the
9 .	Katahdin Area Boy Scouts of America, the Kennebec Girl Scout Council and the Abnaki Girl Scout Council are charitable,
11 13	nonprofit organizations which provide important and effective educational and developmental training for over 37,000 youth residents of the State; and
15	
17	Whereas, over 10,000 adult volunteers donate their time and energy to the 4 scouting organizations of this State; and
19	Whereas, in 1987 and 1988, over \$2,000,000 was donated by Maine residents and businesses operating in the State to maintain
21	and enhance the programs of the Pine Tree Council Boy Scouts of America; and
23	Whereas, of the \$2,000,000 contributed to the Pine Tree
25	Council Boy Scouts of America, \$1,000,000 was earmarked for an endowment fund and \$1,000,000 was earmarked for capital improvements at scouting facilities in the State; and
27	
29	Whereas, of the \$1,000,000 earmarked for capital improvements, \$250,000 has been expended and significant amounts of the \$750,000 remaining for capital improvements are scheduled
31	to be expended during the summer months of 1989; and
33	Whereas, the imposition of the sales tax on the purchases of goods and services with the \$750,000 will significantly reduce
35	the amount of funds available for capital improvements; and
37	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
39	Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
41	necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
43	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
45	36 MRSA §1760, sub-§56, as repealed and replaced by PL 1987, c. 769, Pt. A, §153, is amended to read:
47	
49	56. Nonprofit youth organizations. Sales to nonprofit youth organizations whose primary purpose is to provide athletic
5 1	instruction in a nonresidential setting, or to local units of

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

1.3

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill exempts scouting organizations in this State from paying a sales tax on goods and services they purchase in the State. Scouting organizations are charitable, nonprofit organizations and provide important educational and developmental training for over 37,000 youth residents of the State. In addition, over 10,000 adult volunteers donate their time and energy to the effectiveness of the scouting organizations.

In addition to the scouting organizations' ordinary purchases of goods and services in the State, in 1988, over \$2,000,000 was donated by the State's residents and businesses to maintain and enhance the effectiveness of the Pine Tree Council Boy Scouts of America. Of the \$2,000,000 contributed, \$1,000,000 was earmarked for an endowment fund and \$1,000,000 was earmarked for capital improvements at scouting facilities in the State. Currently, \$750,000 remains to be spent on capital improvements over the next 5 years. Significant amounts of the \$750,000 remaining for capital improvements will be expended during the summer months of 1989. Due to those expenditures, the emergency provision is required.

This bill allows more money to be available for the programs offered by the scouting organizations.