

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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90-
R. of S.

L.D. 1682

(Filing No. S-288)

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 634, L.D. 1682, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Solicitation by Law Enforcement Officers"

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Amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

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'Sec. 4. Legislative intent. It is the intent of the Legislature to repeal all exceptions to the prohibition against solicitation by law enforcement agencies, officers and associations in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, chapter 403, subchapter I. This Act clarifies and reaffirms that the primary and compelling purpose underlying the laws against solicitation by law enforcement officers is to eliminate the coercion that is inherent in solicitations by and on behalf of law enforcement officers by prohibiting such solicitations. When a law enforcement officer solicits from a prospective donor, the donor may not feel totally free to reject the request, in light of the officer's position. This occurs regardless of the subjective intent of the officer to coerce the prospective donor. In addition to the effect on the prospective donor, the appearance of the transaction to 3rd persons may undermine public confidence in the integrity of the public office. At least the appearance of coercion inheres in every solicitation on behalf of law enforcement agents and the appearance undermines the integrity of the office. The Legislature finds that the State has a compelling interest in preserving the integrity of law enforcement officers and finds that regulating all law enforcement solicitations is necessary to promote this compelling state interest.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment adds a legislative intent section to the bill to clarify the Legislature's purpose in enacting this law.