

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 608

H.P. 471

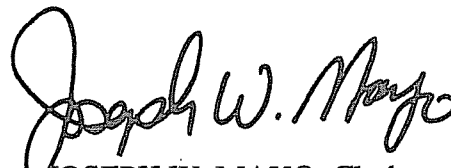
House of Representatives, February 23, 1993

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**An Act Regarding Legislative Ethics.**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ERWIN of Rumford.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CARLETON of Wells, CARROLL of Gray, DORE of Auburn, FARNUM of South Berwick, GWADOSKY of Fairfield, JACQUES of Waterville, MELENDY of Rockland, PFEIFFER of Brunswick, PINEAU of Jay, STEVENS of Sabattus, TOWNSEND of Eastport, Senators: LUTHER of Oxford, PARADIS of Aroostook, PEARSON of Penobscot.

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

2           **Sec. 1.** 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 561,  
4 §4, is amended to read:

6           **4. Gift.** "Gift" means anything of value, including  
8 forgiveness of an obligation or debt, given to a person without  
that person providing equal or greater consideration to the  
giver. "Gift" does not include:

10           A. Gifts received from a single source during the reporting  
12 period with an aggregate value of \$300 or less;

14           B. A bequest or other form of inheritance; and

16           C. A gift received from a relative; or

18           D. A meal with a value no greater than \$25 per person that  
20 is provided in conjunction with an informational program  
sponsored by an industry or special interest organization  
22 for a group of legislators.

24           **Sec. 2.** 3 MRSA §318, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

26           **3. Gifts and pecuniary benefits to public servants.** A  
person may not provide a meal without charge to a public servant  
28 unless the following conditions are met:

30           A. Each meal has a value no greater than \$25 per person;

32           B. The meal is provided in conjunction with an  
informational program; and

34           C. The meal and program are presented to a group of public  
36 servants, including, but not limited to, a committee, a  
board or a commission.

38           **Sec. 3.** 17-A MRSA §602, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1975, c.  
40 499, §1, is amended to read:

42           C. "Pecuniary benefit" means any advantage in the form of  
44 money, property, commercial interest or anything else, the  
primary significance of which is economic gain; it does not  
46 include economic advantage applicable to the public  
generally, such as tax reduction or increased prosperity  
48 generally. Pecuniary benefit does not include meals with a  
value of up to \$25 per person if the meals are provided by  
industry or special interest organizations as part of an  
50 informational program presented to a group of public  
servants.

STATEMENT OF FACT.

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This bill excludes from improper gifts and pecuniary benefits to public servants meals that are worth no more than \$25 per person and are provided to a group of public servants as part of an informational program sponsored by industry or special interest organizations.