

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 974

S.P. 321

In Senate, March 22, 1993

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Legislative Ethics.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HALL of Piscataquis.
Cosponsored by Senators: AMERO of Cumberland, BEGLEY of Lincoln, CAHILL of Sagadahoc, KIEFFER of Aroostook, LUDWIG of Aroostook, MARDEN of Kennebec,
Representative: CROSS of Dover-Foxcroft.

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

2
4 Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 561,
§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 ~~\$25~~ or less;

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

16 C. A gift received from a relative; and

18 D. Meals.

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

22 3. Gifts to public servants. A person may not give a gift
24 with an aggregate value of more than \$25 to a public servant.
For purposes of this chapter, meals are not considered gifts.

26 Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §602, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1975, c.
28 499, §1, is amended to read:

30 C. "Pecuniary benefit" means any advantage in the form of
32 money, property, commercial interest or anything else, the
primary significance of which is economic gain; it does not
34 include economic advantage applicable to the public
generally, such as tax reduction or increased prosperity
generally. Pecuniary benefit does not include meals of any
value or gifts with an aggregate value of \$25 or less.

36
38 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

40 This bill excludes meals from improper gifts and pecuniary
42 benefits to public servants. It also excludes gifts with an
aggregate value of \$25 or less from improper gifts and pecuniary
44 benefits to public servants.