

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 289

S.P. 114

In Senate, January 27, 1995

**An Act to Clarify the Status of Certain Gifts to Legislators under the
Governmental Ethics Laws.**

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senators: LORD of York, SMALL of Sagadahoc, STEVENS of
Androscoggin, Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, AIKMAN of Poland, JOSEPH of
Waterville.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§4, ¶¶B and C**, as enacted by PL 1989,
c. 561, §4, are amended to read:

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

8 C. A gift received from a relative; and

10 **Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§4, ¶D** is enacted to read:

12 D. A subscription to a newspaper, news magazine or other
14 news publication.

16 **Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §602, sub-§2, ¶C**, as amended by PL 1993, c.
396, §1, is further amended to read:

18 C. "Pecuniary benefit" means any advantage in the form of
20 money, property, commercial interest or anything else, the
primary significance of which is economic gain; it does not
22 include economic advantage applicable to the public
generally, such as tax reduction or increased prosperity
24 generally. "Pecuniary benefit" does not include meals a
meal if the meals--are meal is provided by industry or
26 special interest organizations as part of an informational
program presented to a group of public servants or a
subscription to a newspaper, news magazine or other news
28 publication.

30 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

32 This bill makes clear that a person may give and certain
34 government officials may receive a gift of a subscription to a
newspaper, news magazine or other news publication without
36 violating legislative ethics or criminal laws.