

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 1116

S.P. 338

In Senate, February 18, 1997

An Act to Prevent Discrimination.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary 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 ABROMSON of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative THOMPSON of Naples and
Senators: LONGLEY of Waldo, MacKINNON of York, PINGREE of Knox, Representatives:
KONTOS of Windham, MAYO of Bath, McALEVEY of Waterboro, OTT of York, SAXL of
Portland.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4552**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 327, §1, is
further amended to read:

6 **§4552. Policy**

8 To protect the public health, safety and welfare, it is
declared to be the policy of this State to keep continually in
10 review all practices infringing on the basic human right to a
life with dignity, and the causes of these practices, so that
12 corrective measures may, where possible, be promptly recommended
and implemented, and to prevent discrimination in employment,
14 housing or access to public accommodations on account of race,
color, sex, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability,
16 religion, ancestry or national origin; and in employment,
discrimination on account of age or because of the previous
18 assertion of a claim or right under former Title 39 or Title 39-A
and in housing because of familial status; and to prevent
20 discrimination in the extension of credit on account of age,
race, color, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, religion,
22 ancestry or national origin; and to prevent discrimination in
education on account of sex or physical or mental disability.

24 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §4553, sub-§9-C** is enacted to read:

26 **9-C. Sexual orientation.** "Sexual orientation" means having
28 a preference for heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality,
having a history of that preference or being identified with that
30 preference.

32 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §4553, sub-§10, ¶E**, as amended by PL 1983, c.
578, §2, is further amended to read:

34 E. In determining whether any a person is acting as an
36 agent or employee of another person so as to make such the
other person responsible for his that person's acts, the
38 question of whether the specific acts performed were
actually authorized or subsequently ratified shall is not be
40 controlling; and

42 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §4553, sub-§10, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 1983, c.
578, §2, is amended to read:

44 F. Unlawful educational discrimination as defined and
46 limited by subchapter V-B; and

48 **Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §4553, sub-§10, ¶G** is enacted to read:

50 G. Discrimination in employment, housing, public
accommodations and credit on the basis of sexual

2 orientation, except that a religious corporation,
3 association or organization is exempt from these provisions.

4
5 **SUMMARY**

6
7 This bill extends to all citizens regardless of their sexual
8 orientation the same civil rights protections now guaranteed to
9 citizens on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age,
10 national origin and physical or mental handicap. Discrimination
11 in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and
12 credit would be prohibited.