

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1781

S.P. 616

In Senate, March 9, 1999

An Act Relative to Freedom of Employment in the Broadcasting Industry.

Reference to the Committee on Labor 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 PINGREE of Knox.
Cosponsored by Speaker ROWE of Portland and
Senator AMERO of Cumberland, Representatives: CAMPBELL of Holden, DUDLEY of
Portland, DUPLESSIE of Westbrook, MURPHY of Kennebunk, QUINT of Portland, SAXL
of Bangor, SAXL of Portland.

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

4 Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §599 is enacted to read:

6 **§599. Employment in broadcasting industry**

8 **1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the
context otherwise indicates, "broadcasting industry" means
television stations or networks or radio stations or networks.

10
12 **2. Geographic restriction prohibited.** A broadcasting
industry employer may not require, as a condition of employment,
14 that an employee or prospective employee refrain from obtaining
employment in a specified geographic area for a specified period
16 of time after separation of employment, whether involuntary or
voluntary, from the broadcasting industry employer.

18 **3. Liability.** A person who violates this section is liable
in a civil action for damages, attorney's fees and costs.

20
22 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill precludes employment restrictions in the
broadcasting industry that seek to restrict competition by
26 requiring employees, as a condition of employment, to agree not
to work in a specified geographic area for a specified period of
28 time after their employment with a broadcasting industry employer.