

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 698

H.P. 543

House of Representatives, February 13, 2001

An Act to Prohibit Discrimination.

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator LEMONT of York and
Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, BROOKS of Winterport, SHERMAN of Hodgdon,
SKOGLUND of St. George, TRAHAN of Waldoboro, WESTON of Montville.

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 except on account of a reasonable concern related to an
occupational qualification or because of the previous assertion
of a claim or right under former Title 39 or Title 39-A; in
16 housing or, except on account of a reasonable concern about
potential damage to the property or nonpayment of rent; in access
to public accommodations on account of race, color, sex, physical
18 or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin; and
in employment, discrimination on account of age or because of the
20 previous assertion of a claim or right under former Title 39 or
Title 39-A and in housing because of familial status; and to
22 prevent discrimination, except on account of a reasonable concern
related to health, safety or payment for the goods or services
24 rendered; in the extension of credit, except on account of age,
race, color, sex, marital status, religion, ancestry or national
26 origin; and to prevent discrimination a reasonable concern
related to repayment; and in education on account of sex or
30 physical or mental disability for any reason.

32 **Sec. 2. Implementing legislation.** The Maine Human Rights
Commission shall submit a bill conforming other statutes to this
34 Act to the 120th Legislature no later than November 1, 2001.

36 **SUMMARY**

38 The purpose of this bill is to repeal references to
protected classes in portions of the Maine Human Rights Act and
40 replace them with a general prohibition against discrimination in
the areas specified in current law subject to certain
42 exceptions. This bill directs the Maine Human Rights Commission
to submit a bill to the 120th Legislature conforming other
44 statutes to this act.