

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1150

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H.P. 871

House of Representatives, February 28, 2001

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### **An Act to Prohibit Campaign Signs Within 750 Feet of a Polling Place.**

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

*Millicent M. MacFarland*

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative JONES of Greenville.

Cosponsored by Representatives: STANLEY of Medway, TUTTLE of Sanford.

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

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**Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §682, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 459, §62, is further amended to read:

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6           **3. Advertising prohibited.** A person may not display any  
7 advertising material, operate any advertising medium, including a  
8 sound amplification device, or distribute campaign literature,  
9 posters, palm cards, buttons, badges or stickers containing a  
10 candidate's name or otherwise intending to influence the opinion  
11 of any voter within 250 750 feet of the entrance to either the  
12 voting place or the registrar's office. The term "sound  
13 amplification device" includes, but is not limited to, sound  
14 trucks, loudspeakers and blowhorns.

16 Party workers and others who remain in the voting place outside  
17 the guardrail enclosure may not use within the voting place  
18 cellular phones, beepers, voice or signal pagers or similar  
19 devices that make noise or allow direct audible voice  
20 communication within the voting place. The warden may exempt  
21 election officials and emergency workers such as Emergency  
22 Medical Technicians and police from this provision.

24 A poll watcher or a person who is at the polls solely for the  
25 purpose of voting may not wear a hat or clothing bearing a  
26 candidate's name.

28           A. This subsection does not apply to advertising material  
29 on automobiles traveling to and from the voting place. It  
30 does not prohibit a person from passing out stickers at the  
31 voting place to be pasted on the ballot at a primary  
32 election. It does not prohibit a person who is at the polls  
33 solely for the purpose of voting from wearing a campaign  
34 button when the longest dimension of the button does not  
35 exceed 3 inches.

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37           B. A person who knowingly engages in activities prohibited  
38 by this section commits a Class E crime.

40           C. Nonpolitical charitable activities and other  
41 nonpolitical advertising may be allowed at the discretion of  
42 the clerk if arrangements are made prior to election day.  
43 If arrangements are not made in advance of election day, the  
44 warden may, at the warden's discretion, either allow or  
45 prohibit nonpolitical charitable activities and other  
46 nonpolitical advertising.

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## SUMMARY

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4       This bill increases the distance any political advertising  
material may be placed near the entrance to either the voting  
place or the registrar's office from 250 feet to 750 feet. It  
6 also specifies a voter may not wear clothing bearing a  
candidate's name at the polls.