

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 272

S.P. 92

In Senate, January 18, 2005

An Act To Provide an Exemption from Discrimination Laws to Fitness Centers

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative LUNDEEN of Mars Hill, Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and
Senators: ANDREWS of York, NUTTING of Androscoggin, PERRY of Penobscot,
PLOWMAN of Penobscot, RAYE of Washington, Representatives: LANSLEY of Sabattus,
MAKAS of Lewiston, SHIELDS of Auburn.

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4553, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B. Fitness center. "Fitness center" means an establishment, whether operated for profit or not for profit, that provides as its primary purpose services or facilities that are purported to assist patrons in physical exercise, in weight control or in figure development. "Fitness center" does not include an organization offering training or facilities only for an individual sport or a weight reduction center.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §4553, sub-§8, ¶1, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 393, §7, is amended to read:

I. A park, zoo, amusement park, race course, skating rink, fair, bowling alley, golf course, golf club, country club, gymnasium, health spa, shooting gallery, billiard or pool parlor, swimming pool, seashore accommodation or boardwalk or other place of recreation, exercise or health, except that "place of public accommodation" does not include a fitness center;

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §4553, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Weight reduction center. "Weight reduction center" means an establishment that provides as its primary purpose instruction, supervision or counseling for diet or weight loss or maintenance and does not provide physical exercise services on the premises.

SUMMARY

This bill provides an exception to the law prohibiting discrimination in places of public accommodation to permit a fitness center to provide facilities and services exclusively to persons of one sex.