

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 266

S.P. 89

January 27, 2009

An Act To Preserve Statewide Public Broadcasting

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs 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 RAYE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Speaker PINGREE of North Haven and
Senators: BRYANT of Oxford, CRAVEN of Androscoggin, DAMON of Hancock, DAVIS of
Cumberland, JACKSON of Aroostook, President MITCHELL of Kennebec, NUTTING of
Androscoggin, RECTOR of Knox, ROSEN of Hancock, SCHNEIDER of Penobscot,
SHERMAN of Aroostook, SMITH of Piscataquis, Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell,
BICKFORD of Auburn, BURNS of Whiting, CLEARLY of Houlton, CURTIS of Madison,
DAVIS of Sangerville, DRISCOLL of Westbrook, EDGECOMB of Caribou, GIFFORD of
Lincoln, GILES of Belfast, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, McFADDEN of Dennysville, MILLER of
Somerville, MILLETT of Waterford, PERCY of Phippsburg, PERRY of Calais, SAVIELLO of
Wilton, SOCTOMAH of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, SUTHERLAND of Chapman, TILTON of
Harrington, WAGNER of Lewiston, WHEELER of Kittery.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §852, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

3 **4. Condition of funding.** An entity receiving an appropriation or allocation of state
4 funds to support the statewide public broadcasting network or a corporation operating the
5 statewide public broadcasting network shall operate, equip and maintain facilities to
6 ensure delivery of broadcast sources throughout the State, including at least the television
7 transmitters and radio towers identified under paragraphs A and B that were in operation
8 on January 1, 2009 or an equivalent network of transmitters and towers providing
9 equivalent or expanded broadcast coverage throughout the State:

10 A. The transmitters for television stations located in Presque Isle, Calais, Orono,
11 Augusta and Biddeford; and

12 B. The radio towers for radio stations located in Fort Kent, Presque Isle, Calais,
13 Bangor, Waterville, Camden and Portland.

14 An appropriation or allocation of state funds may not be made to support the statewide
15 public broadcasting network or any corporation operating the statewide public
16 broadcasting network if this condition is not met, and if this condition is violated during
17 any state fiscal year in which such an appropriation or allocation has been made the entity
18 receiving the appropriation or allocation shall return the full amount of that appropriation
19 or allocation to the Treasurer of State no later than 15 business days after the beginning of
20 the next state fiscal year.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill requires, as a condition of receiving state funding, that the Maine Public
23 Broadcasting Network operate all of its existing radio towers and television transmitters
24 or an equivalent network providing equal or better broadcast coverage. If the condition is
25 violated, the Maine Public Broadcasting Network must return the state funding.