

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)



124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 813

H.P. 549

House of Representatives, March 3, 2009

An Act To Require Plain Language in Consumer Contracts

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative EVES of North Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator RECTOR of Knox and
Representatives: HUNT of Buxton, MacDONALD of Boothbay, MARTIN of Orono,
McCABE of Skowhegan, MORRISON of South Portland, SMITH of Monmouth, WRIGHT of
Berwick, Senator: BOWMAN of York.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to require written consumer contracts involving \$100,000 or less to
6 meet certain criteria in order to be clear and readable, including:

- 7 1. Adequately informing the consumer of the rights and duties fixed by the contract;
- 8 2. Using words with common everyday meanings to the extent practicable;
- 9 3. Being appropriately divided into sections with captions and paragraphs; and
- 10 4. Being printed in at least 10-point type with at least one point of leading between
11 lines and in an ink that contrasts sufficiently with the paper.

12 Exceptions to the clear and readable standard include words, phrases or forms of
13 agreement required by law or governmental entity or technical terms customarily used in
14 a particular industry or area if there are no clear and readable substitutes for those terms.
15 The Attorney General would enforce the provisions of this bill.