

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 982

S.P. 365

In Senate, March 12, 2009

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Legislative Ethics

Reported by Senator SULLIVAN of York for the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 1009.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed under Joint Rule 218.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

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

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1009**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 301, §2, is amended to read:

3 **§1009. Recommendations to Legislature**

4 Following a general election, the commission may solicit suggestions for improving
5 campaign financing and reporting and the administration of the other areas within the
6 commission's jurisdiction. The commission shall review the suggestions and may submit
7 legislation within 90 days of the general election based on those suggestions or on
8 proposals by individual members of the commission or its staff.

9 **Sec. 2. 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

10 **2-A. Domestic partner.** "Domestic partner" means the partner of a Legislator who:

11 A. Has been legally domiciled with the Legislator for at least 12 months;

12 B. Is not legally married to or legally separated from an individual;

13 C. Is the sole partner of the Legislator and expects to remain so; and

14 D. Is jointly responsible with the Legislator for each other's common welfare as
15 evidenced by joint living arrangements, joint financial arrangements or joint
16 ownership of real or personal property.

17 **Sec. 3. 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 561, §4, is amended to
18 read:

19 **6. Immediate family.** "Immediate family" means a Legislator's spouse, domestic
20 partner or dependent children.

21 **Sec. 4. 1 MRSA §1012, sub-§8**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 561, §4, is amended to
22 read:

23 **8. Relative.** "Relative" means an individual who is related to the Legislator or the
24 Legislator's spouse as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great
25 aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, domestic partner,
26 grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-
27 law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson,
28 stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother or half sister, and ~~shall be deemed to~~
29 include includes the fiance or fiancee of the Legislator.

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This bill clarifies that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election
32 Practices may submit to the Legislature legislative proposals by commission members
33 and staff in addition to legislative proposals based on suggestions from outside sources,
34 as permitted in current law. The bill also defines "domestic partner" in the legislative
35 ethics laws for purposes of conflicts of interest and annual reporting of sources of
36 Legislators' income.