

# 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 electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



# 125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2011

---

Legislative Document

No. 243

H.P. 196

House of Representatives, February 1, 2011

### **An Act To Ensure Emergency Communications for Persons with Disabilities**

---

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Clerk

Presented by Representative WEBSTER of Freeport.  
Cosponsored by Senator THIBODEAU of Waldo and  
Representatives: BEAVERS of South Berwick, DION of Portland, DUNPHY of Embden,  
FITTS of Pittsfield, HINCK of Portland, LUCHINI of Ellsworth, Senators: BARTLETT of  
Cumberland, GERZOFKY of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1419, sub-§1, ¶B-2**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 553, Pt. A,  
3 §1, is further amended to read:

4 B-2. "Specialized customer communications equipment" means communications  
5 equipment used by persons with disabilities to conduct telephone communications or  
6 equipment that provides or assists in providing emergency alert notification to deaf  
7 persons or hard-of-hearing persons. "Specialized customer communications  
8 equipment" includes but is not limited to teletypewriters, artificial larynges, signaling  
9 devices, amplified handsets, telecoil technology, large number dial overlays, direct  
10 telephone dialing, fax machines, equipment necessary to use short message services  
11 or text message services and other equipment used by persons with disabilities to  
12 provide access to telephone networks and equipment that provides or facilitates  
13 emergency alert notification to deaf persons or hard-of-hearing persons.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill adds telecoil technology to the types of specialized customer  
16 communications equipment that may be made available by the Department of Labor,  
17 Bureau of Rehabilitation Services to low-income deaf, hard-of-hearing, late-deafened or  
18 speech-impaired persons and persons with disabilities to provide or facilitate emergency  
19 alert notifications.