

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2012

Legislative Document

No. 1881

S.P. 658

In Senate, March 15, 2012

An Act Regarding the Commercial Sale of Deeds Records

Reported by Senator THOMAS of Somerset for the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Order, S.P. 638.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Joseph G. Carleton Jr.

JOSEPH G. CARLETON, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

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

2 **Sec. 1. 33 MRSA §671** is enacted to read:

3 **§671. Commercial resale**

4 **1. Prohibition on resale.** A person may not resell digital abstracts and copies of
5 deeds.

6 **2. Written statement.** A person requesting 1,000 or more digital abstracts and
7 copies of consecutive deeds records shall provide to the register of deeds a signed written
8 statement asserting that the records will not be sold or offered for sale.

9 **3. Violations.** A violation of subsection 1 is a civil violation for which a fine of not
10 more than \$1,000 may be adjudged. The execution of a statement under subsection 2
11 containing a false statement constitutes unsworn falsification under Title 17-A, section
12 453.

13 **4. Application.** This section does not apply to commercial activity for which the
14 exchange of copies of abstracts and deeds records is incidental to the commercial activity.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill prohibits the resale of digital abstracts and copies of deeds. A person
17 requesting 1,000 or more consecutive deeds records must file a signed written statement
18 with the register of deeds that the records are not being requested with the intent to resell.
19 A person who resells deeds commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than
20 \$1,000 may be adjudged. A person who executes a statement containing a false statement
21 commits unsworn falsification under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 453.
22 This prohibition does not apply to commercial activity for which the exchange of copies
23 of abstracts and deeds records is incidental to the activity, such as a real estate closing.