

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 879

S.P. 293

In Senate, March 8, 2021

**An Act Clarifying the Acceptance of Public Funding by Community
Benefit Organizations**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KEIM of Oxford.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4553, sub-§10, ¶G,** as amended by PL 2019, c. 464, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 G. Discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation, credit and
5 educational opportunity on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, except
6 that a religious corporation, association or organization ~~that does not receive public~~
7 ~~funds~~ is exempt from this provision with respect to:

8 (1) Employment, as is more fully set forth in section 4553, subsection 4 and section
9 4573-A;

10 (2) Housing; and

11 (3) Educational opportunity, as is more fully set forth in section 4602, subsection
12 4.

13 Any for-profit organization owned, controlled or operated by a religious association or
14 corporation and subject to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 United
15 States Code, Section 511(a) is not covered by the exemptions set forth in this
16 paragraph.

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill amends the Maine Human Rights Act to ensure that religious corporations,
19 associations and organizations, whether or not they receive public funds, are exempt from
20 discrimination prohibitions on the basis of employment, housing and educational
21 opportunity. Any for-profit organization owned, controlled or operated by a religious
22 association or corporation remains subject to the discrimination prohibitions.