

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 1217

H.P. 892

House of Representatives, March 24, 2021

An Act To Require the Acceptance of Cash for In-person Retail Transactions

Received by the Clerk of the House on March 22, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford. (BY REQUEST)

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

2 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 233** is enacted to read:

3 **CHAPTER 233**

4 **PAYMENT BY CASH**

5 **§1500-N. Payment by cash**

6 A person offering goods or services for sale at retail may not refuse payment in the
7 form of cash for the goods or services or require payment only by an electronic method.
8 For purposes of this section, "at retail" means any retail transaction conducted in person
9 and does not include a transaction conducted remotely by telephone, mail or the Internet.
10 A violation of this section constitutes a civil violation for which a fine of up to \$500 for the
11 first offense and up to \$1,000 for a 2nd or subsequent offense may be adjudged.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 This bill requires a person offering goods or services for sale at retail in person to accept
14 cash and prohibits the person from accepting payment only by an electronic method. These
15 provisions do not apply to transactions conducted remotely by telephone, mail or the
16 Internet. A violation of these provisions constitutes a civil violation for which a fine of up
17 to \$500 for a first offense and a fine of up to \$1,000 for a 2nd or subsequent offense may
18 be adjudged.