

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 521

H.P. 326

House of Representatives, February 9, 2023

An Act to Prevent Political Patronage with Regard to State Legislators

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ANDREWS of Paris.
Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, GREENWOOD of Wales, HAGGAN of Hampden,
RISEMAN of Harrison, Senator: LYFORD of Penobscot.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1025** is enacted to read:

3 **§1025. Waiting period before employment with state agency or nonprofit corporation**
4 **receiving state funds**

5 **1. Actions precluded beginning with the 132nd Legislature.** Beginning with the
6 convening of the 132nd Legislature, a person who has served as a Legislator may not be
7 employed by a state agency or a nonprofit corporation that directly or indirectly receives
8 state funds until 4 years after that person's term as a Legislator ends.

9 **2. Complaints and investigations.** A person may file a complaint with the
10 commission specifying an alleged violation of this section. The commission staff shall
11 notify the party against whom the complaint has been filed and may undertake the
12 investigation of the alleged violation if directed by the commission. The commission may
13 direct commission staff to undertake an investigation of an alleged violation of this section
14 on its own motion.

15 **3. Penalty.** A person who intentionally violates this section is subject to a civil penalty
16 not to exceed \$1,000, payable to the State and recoverable in a civil action, and must
17 terminate any employment in violation of this section.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill prohibits a Legislator from being employed by a state agency or a nonprofit
20 corporation that directly or indirectly receives state funds for a period of 4 years after the
21 Legislator's term ends. The bill allows a person to file a complaint concerning a violation
22 of this provision to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, which
23 may investigate the complaint. An intentional violation of this provision may result in a
24 civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000, and the former Legislator is required to terminate the
25 employment.