

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 870

S.P. 367

In Senate, February 24, 2023

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**An Act to Strengthen Freedom of Speech Protections by Extending  
Laws Against Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation**

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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 TIPPING of Penobscot.  
Cosponsored by Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor and  
Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot, GROHOSKI of Hancock, NANGLE  
of Cumberland, Representatives: BOYER of Poland, SAYRE of Kennebunk, WARREN of  
Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §556, last ¶**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 413, §1, is amended to  
3 read:

4 As used in this section, "a party's exercise of its right of petition" means any written or  
5 oral statement made before or submitted to a legislative, executive or judicial body, or any  
6 other governmental proceeding; any written or oral statement made in connection with an  
7 issue under consideration or review by a legislative, executive or judicial body, or any other  
8 governmental proceeding; any statement reasonably likely to encourage consideration or  
9 review of an issue by a legislative, executive or judicial body, or any other governmental  
10 proceeding; any statement reasonably likely to enlist public participation in an effort to  
11 effect such consideration; any statement made in connection with an issue of public interest  
12 in a public forum or other place open to the public; any statement made in a media  
13 publication; or any other statement falling within constitutional protection of the right to  
14 petition government.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill expands Maine's protections against strategic lawsuits against public  
17 participation to include protection for any statement in connection with an issue of public  
18 interest made in a public forum or other place open to the public and any statement made  
19 in a media publication.